05

HIGH SCHOOL DXD

COMIC
HIROJI MISHIMA
ORIGINAL
ICHIEI ISHIBUMI
CHARACTER DESIGN
ZERO MIYAMA

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

HIGH SCHOOL D×D

05

COMIC
Hiroji Mishima

ORIGINAL
Ichiei Ishibumi

CHARACTER DESIGN
Zero Miyama

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HIGH SCHOOL DXD

LIFE.23: GET FIRED UP, OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB!

ZZZ...

ZZZ...

MOZO (SQUIRM)

MM...

MUNI (MOOSH)

GYUU

!

GOKU (GULP)

GYU (GRIP)

ぼ" BOOO (DAZED)

...OH, UP ALREADY?

Y- YEAH.

UHM...

PACHI (BLINK)

UM, I CAN SEE IT ALL!!

OH, I'M SORRY. I JUST FELT LIKE SLEEPING WITH MY ISSEI PILLOW.

MUKURI (RISE)

I KINDA DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK WHEN I WOKE UP AND SAW YOU HERE...

NOSO (CREEP)

SO I LET MYSELF IN ONCE YOU WERE OUT COLD.

EH!?

DOKI (BADUM)

OR WE COULD TRY SOMETHING A BIT... MORE RISQUÉ...

WELL, WHAT SHALL WE DO? WE COULD JUST STAY LIKE THIS UNTIL WE HAVE TO GO...

!!

THAT'S FINE. I'LL DO ANYTHING IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY.

FEELING AGGRESSIVE, ARE YOU?

MUNYUN (SMOOSH)

UM, PRESIDENT... I-I'M A GUY, SO... IF YOU MAKE THAT KIND OF OFFER, I CAN'T EXACTLY REFUSE...

GU (GRAB)

GOOD MORNING~!

ISSEI-SAN, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR EARLY MORNING TRAINING!

!!!

IBIKU (JUMP)

KON (KNOCK)

ISSEI-SAN?

KON

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT THE PRESIDENT MOVED IN. ASIA TOTALLY SEES HER AS A RIVAL, AND IT'S NOT HELPING HER MOOD.

I CAN'T LET ASIA SEE US LIKE THIS!

NAH, I'M UP! J-JUST A MINUTE! ACTUALLY, JUST GO AND WAIT DOWN-STAIRS!

ARE YOU STILL ASLEEP?

KON

WHA-!?

NIYA (GRIN)

ニヤ

ASIA, I'M IN HERE TOO. GETTING READY WITH ISSEI. SO BE A GOOD GIRL AND WAIT FOR US. OKAY?

(GACHA (KACHAK)

MORNING, ASIA.

NIKOO (SMILE)

—LOOKS LIKE TODAY'S GONNA BE ANOTHER INTENSE DAY.

ASIA!?

SIGN: HYOUDOU

I'M GETTING NAKED TOO! I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE ME OUT!

NUGI (STRIP)

PINPOOON (DING-DONNG)...

PARDON US.

HUH? WHY'RE YOU ALL AT MY HOUSE...?

OH... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? THEY'RE CLEANING THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING THAT HOUSES OUR CLUBROOM TODAY, SO OUR MEETING HAS TO BE HERE.

C'MON, AKENO-SAN!! I MEAN, STOP SHOWING HER, MOM!

OH MY. HE'S ALL NAKED AT THE BEACH.

AND HERE WE HAVE ISSEI WHEN HE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

HRN?

YOU TOO, KOUEKO-CHAN? CUT THAT OUT!

はっ!

HA (GASP)

...ISSEI-SENPAI'S RAW AND UNCUT PAST.

UM? PRESI-DENT ...?

ふっ BUTSU (MUMBLE)

ふっ BUTSU

ふっ BUTSU

ふっ BUTSU

...YOUNG ISSEI. LITTLE ISSEI, LITTLE ISSEI... LITTLE ISSEI, LITTLE ISSEI... LITTLE ISSEI, LITTLE ISSEI... LITTLE ISSEI, LITTLE ISSEI... LITTLE ISSEI, LITTLE ISSEI...

HEY, KIBA! STOP LOOK-ING!

AWW... C'MON... THIS ONE'S CUTE TOO!

I UNDER-STAND YOUR INTEREST, PRES-IDENT! DON'T WORRY!

U-FU-FU!

FUN (SNORT)

FUN

BIKU (JOLT)

ISSEI-KUN!

PYON (HOP)

WHAT'S THE MATTER? LET ME HAVE A BIT MORE FUN.

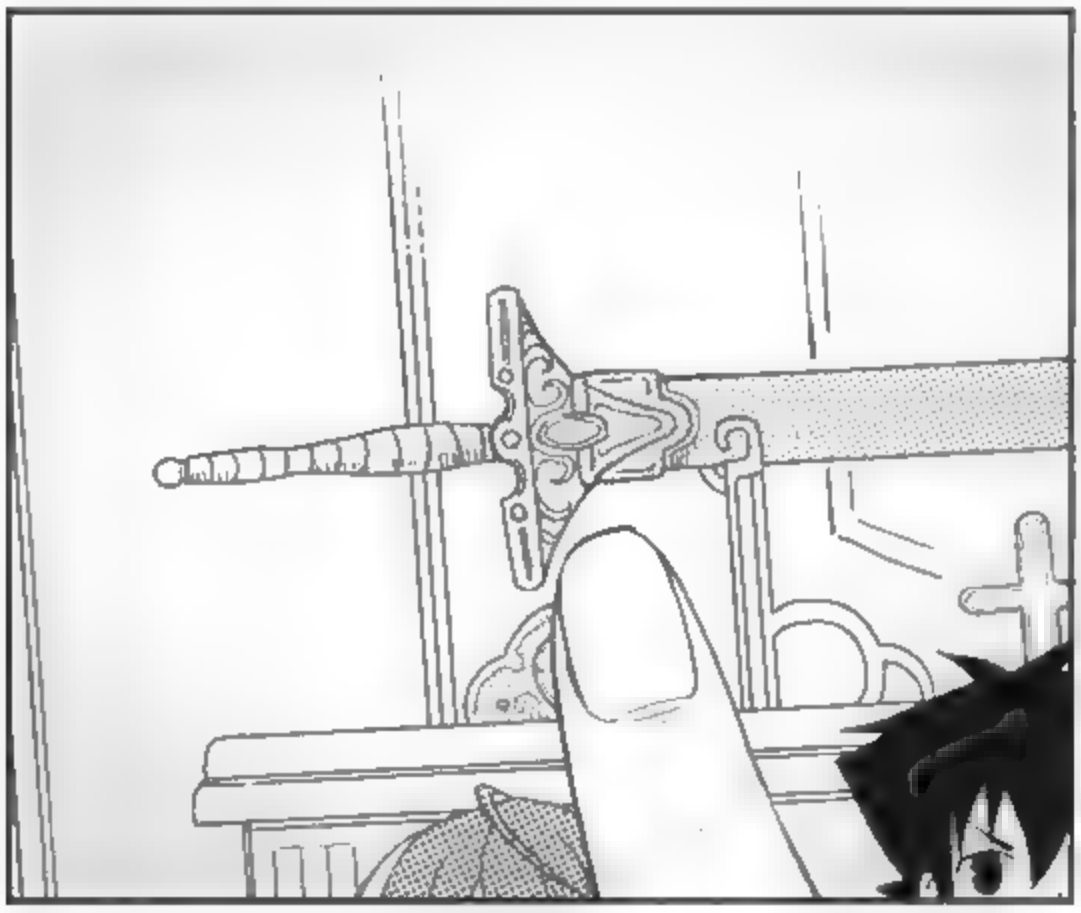
DAMN YOU, KIBA!

...THIS PHOTO.

HUH? WHAT ABOUT IT...?

AHH... THAT'S A KID WHO USED TO LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE WERE ALWAYS PLAYING SUPERHEROES TOGETHER.

BUT ONE OF HIS PARENTS WAS TRANSFERRED FOR WORK, SO THEY MOVED ABROAD BEFORE WE STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



NNN?
DO YOU RECALL EVER SEEING THIS?

I SEE...
WELL, I WAS PRETTY YOUNG. CAN'T SAY I DO.

THIS IS A HOLY SWORD.
GIRI (GRIT)

THAT HAPPENS SOME-TIMES.
A FADED MEMORY YOU CAN'T QUITE PLACE... BUT THIS—

POSUN (THWAP)

I GOT IT! I GOT IT!

KAAAAN (CLANNG)

NICE CATCH, ISSEI!

INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT WINNER

BASEBALL

TEA CEREMONY

TENNIS

STUDENT COUNCIL

OCCULT RESEARCH

RIGHT. THE ATHLETIC MEET IS ONE OF OUR SCHOOL'S BIG EVENTS, AND THE MOST INTENSE PART OF THAT IS ALWAYS THE INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE EVENTS ARE GONNA BE UNTIL THEY ANNOUNCE THEM THE DAY OF, SO WE'RE PRACTICING ALL SORTS OF SPORTS LIKE THIS BEFORE OUR USUAL MEETING.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL IS THE TEAM TO BEAT...

THE ATHLETIC MEET IS NEXT WEEK! LOSING IN THE INTER-CLUB TOURNAMENT IS NOT AN OPTION.

BA (WHAP)

YOU'RE UP NEXT, ASIA!

HAUH! AUH-AUH-AUH, AH!

IL BURU

BURU (TREMBLE)

IL

SUTE (TROT)

スススッ TE TE TE

WELL, GO AND GET IT!

Y-YES!

NEXT IS YUUTO! C'MON!

POKON (BONK)

!?

KIN (CRACK)

THIS SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR KIBA—

...AH.

SORRY. I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.

I'M SO SORRY.

HAAAA (SIGH)

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

KIBA! GET WITH THE PRO-GRAM!

YOU EVEN TRYING!?

YUUTO, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN OFF YOUR GAME LATELY. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL.

ISSEI-KUN, DID YOU NOTICE?

HMM ...

BOOK: COMPLETE MANUAL OF BALL SPORTS

U-FU-FU. I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY, ISSEI-KUN.

L-LOVE MANUAL!? NO WAY. COULD IT BE...? IS THERE SOMEONE SHE LIKES ...!?

WHA —!?

LATELY, THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN READING A "LOVE MANUAL."

??

U FU FU!

NOW THEN, LET'S GET BACK TO PRACTICE.

YEAH. WE'RE TRAINING FOR THE SPORTS MEET.

YOU GOT CLUB AGAIN TODAY ?

SIGN: KUOU PRIVATE ACADEMY

FIGURES. ALL THE MEMBERS ARE IN TIP-TOP SHAPE.

REALLY NOW. SO THE OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB IS GOOD AT BALL GAMES, IS IT?

WH- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MOTOHAMA ...?

WORD HAS IT—

ISSEI. THERE ARE SOME NASTY RUMORS ABOUT YOU CIRCULATING, SO WATCH OUT.

I GUESS.

THAT'S 'COS DEVILS ARE NATURALLY STRONGER THAN HUMANS.

BOX: 36 MILK

YOU'RE HOLDING SOME SORT OF SECRET OVER RIAS-SENPAI AND HIMEJIMA-SENPAI AND BLACK-MAILING THEM INTO ENTERTAINING YOUR BRUTISH, PERVERSE WHIMS.

GUH

FU

FU

FU

FU

FU!

YOU'RE ISSEI HYOUDOU, "THE BEAST," WHO STEALS AWAY BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRLS, ONE AFTER THE OTHER.

HEH-HEH-HEH, YOU TWO ARE USUALLY SUCH ELEGANT, REFINED FLOWERS, BUT BEFORE ME, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT GIVE IN TO YOUR BASEST DESIRES!

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

YOU FINE PAIR OF B○△×H-ES!

...YOU SAY AS YOU ABUSE THEM, FORCING THEM INTO ONE ACT OF DE-BAUCHERY AFTER THE NEXT.

BAN (BAM)

NEYYYYYY! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ABOUT!?

WAIT. THAT ISN'T ALL.

LUSTING AFTER HER PETITE, UNDEVELOPED BODY, YOU'VE ALREADY RUINED HER WITH HEINOUS ACTS BEFITTING ONLY A MONSTER LIKE YOURSELF—

THEY SAY YOU'VE EVEN BARED YOUR POISONOUS FANGS AT THE YOUNG, BUDDING KONEKO TOUJOU-CHAN, OUR ACADEMY'S BELOVED MASCOT AND IDOL.

SENPAI... PLEASE, STOP THIS...

...SHE WEEPS PITIFULLY, HER CRIES FALLING ON THE DEAF, UNCARING EARS OF THE BEAST.

ULTIMATELY, YOUR SEXUAL URGES EXTEND EVEN TO OUR RECENT ANGEL OF A TRANSFER STUDENT—

TORTOISE-SHELL ROPE BONDAGE

BALL GAG

FU HA HA

HA HA HA!

YOU MADE YOUR MOVE THE DAY SHE TRANS-FERRED IN...

FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE GIVING YOU SOME EXTRA-SPECIAL AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING ON THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

COURTESAN

...AND NOW, YOU SLOWLY CORRUPT THE POOR ANGEL DURING THE TWILIGHT HOURS...

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY TONIGHT?♥

LASTLY, YOU LOCK THESE BEAUTIES UP IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD INSIDE YOUR HOUSE, BENDING THEM TO YOUR WILL UNTIL THEY BREAK.

THE BRUTISH ISSEI HYOU-DOU'S LUST FOR YOUNG FLESH KNOWS NO BOUNDS —!

...SERIOUSLY? DO PEOPLE REALLY THINK ALL THAT ABOUT ME?

GEEZ, YOU REALLY ARE THE WORST.

AND, WELL, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.

THOSE ARE THE EYES OF AN ANIMAL... HOW CREEPY.

SCARY.

DON'T LOCK EYES, OR HE'LL GET YOU FOR SURE.

HE'S ON THE HUNT FOR HIS NEXT VICTIM...

EWW... HE'S LOOKING OVER HERE...

CHIRA (GLANCE)

GO (THUMP)

GA (WHAM)

GRAAAWR!

DAMMIT! WHO THE HELL IS SPREADING THESE RUMORS!?

WELL, WE'VE BEEN SPREADING THEM, FOR ONE.

YUP, YUP.

THAT HURT, YOU BRUTE.

YEAH. STOP HITTING US, YOU FIEND.

SCREW YOU GUYS! I SHOULD KILL YOU FOR SAYING THAT STUFF ABOUT ME!

NOW THAT I GET A BETTER LOOK, YOU SURE DO HAVE A PRETTY FACE.

NO, ISSEI-KUN... WE'RE BOTH BOYS...DOING THIS SORT OF THING IS...

WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER WE'VE BEEN SPREADING ANYWAY.

KYAAAH! ARE YOU THE TOP OR THE BOTTOM? THE WORLD WANTS TO KNOW!

YOU EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO LUST AFTER THAT PRETTY BOY!

BY THE WAY, WE ALSO GOT OUT THE WORD ABOUT YOUR *GAY FLING* WITH KIBA.

IT'S ESPECIALLY POPULAR WITH A CERTAIN GROUP OF GIRLS.

GO (BAM)

DIE! JUST DIE ALREADY!

I'LL SAY THIS— NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE BOOBS, IT NEVER GETS OLD.

DIE!!

YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED. EAT ANYTHING ODD LATELY? OR DID YOUR LIFE TURN AROUND WHEN YOU SAW BARE BREASTS FOR THE FIRST TIME?

YOU SURE ARE GUNG HO. WHO KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A JOCK?

AH, LOOKS LIKE CLUBS ARE ABOUT TO START. TIME TO GO.

ASIA, YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S CALLING YOU.

HEY, ASIA. YOU DONE WITH LUNCH?

BOX: MILKY-WHITE YOGURT DRINK

WHAT? AM I WRONG? YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER SO I JUST ASSUMED YOU MUST BE GOING OUT.

B-B-B-B-B-B-B-BOY-FRIEND!?

HOHHH? IS THAT SO? YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ANY OUTSIDE OBSERVER CAN'T HELP BUT THINK YOU'RE A COUPLE, CONSIDERING YOU GO HOME TOGETHER EVERY EVENING.

IT'S N-N-N-N-N-N-N-N-N-NOT LIKE THAT..... I M-M-M-MEAN ...

BY THE WAY, I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HER ABOUT "*NUDE ENCOUNTERS*"! WELL? HAVE YOU HAD FUN WITH THAT?

U FU FU!

AND BESIDES, YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER WITH YOUR PARENTS' CONSENT, RIGHT? A YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN...SLEEPING UNDER THE SAME ROOF... WELL, WHAT ELSE COULD IT POSSIBLY BE...?

NO? THAT'S ODD.

NII (SMIRK)

'COS ASIA REALLY LIKES Y—

I-I MEAN, OF COURSE I'M THE TYPE TO GO FOR THAT SORT OF SEXY THING, BUT I CAN'T VERY WELL DO THAT WITH ASIA!

NO WAY! SO THAT WAS YOU!

MRGFF!

GASHI (GRAB)

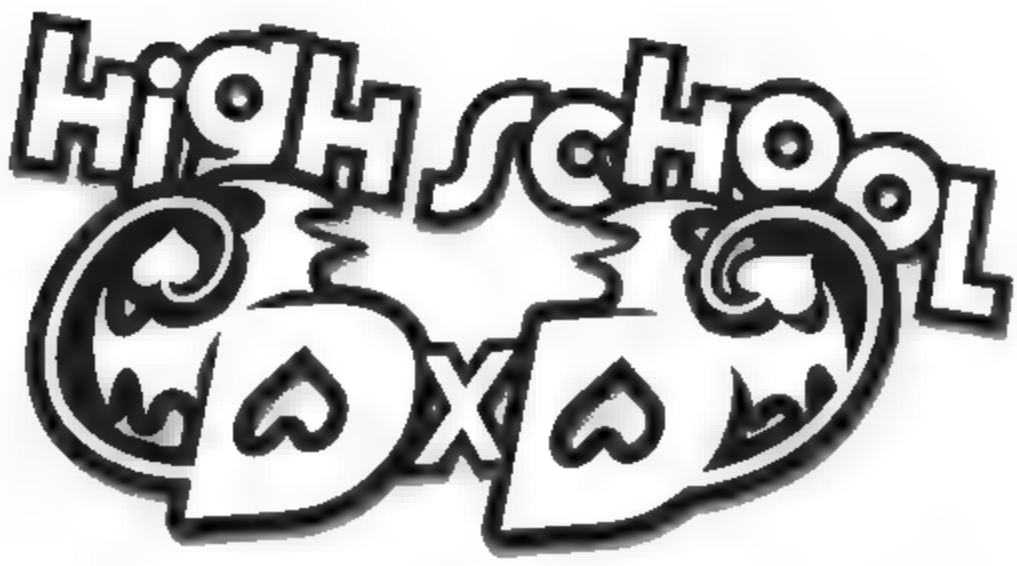
A-AA-AAA-AAAA-AAAAAH! KIRYUU-SAAAAN! PLEASE STOP TALKING!

FWEEET!
FWEEET!
LOOKS LIKE A SECRET DATE TO HEEE!
R-RIIIGHT!
C-C'MON, ASIA. WE GOTTA GET TO THE CLUBROOM.
TA (TMP)
DA (DASH)

POAAAA (BLUSH)
...I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE GUYS. SORRY, ASIA.
...IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.
HAA (SIGH)

SORRY WE'RE LATE.
!!

ST-
STUDENT
COUNCIL
PRESIDENT
...?


HIGH SCHOOL
5X5

LIFE.24: I'LL FIGHT WITH TEAMWORK!

ISSEI, ASIA, ALLOW ME TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE YOU TO **SOUNA SHITORI**.

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, SHE IS OUR ACADEMY'S STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Y-YES, SAME HERE! THE PLEASURE IS ALL OURS!

AH, NICE TO MEET YA...! BUT WHY'S THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT HERE?

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, HYOUDOU-KUN, ASIA-SAN.

EH!? MY SE-CRET'S OUT?

IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE HYOUDOU-KUN WAS TURNED, SO HIS REACTION IS TO BE EXPECTED.

SAJI, YOU ARE WELL AWARE THAT AS WE ARE THE "FACE" OF THIS SCHOOL, WE NATURALLY HAVE TO LIMIT OUR INTERACTION WITH THEM. THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

COME ON, RIAS-SENPAI. DID YOU REALLY NOT TELL HYOUDOU ABOUT US YET?

WHILE HOUSE GREMORY ACTUALLY HOLDS THE POWER AT THIS SCHOOL, THE HOUSE OF SITRI HAS BEEN TASKED WITH MAINTAINING ITS PUBLIC FACE VIA THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

LIKE THE HOUSES OF GREMORY AND PHOENIX, THE HOUSE OF SITRI IS ONE OF THE SEVENTY-TWO PILLARS THAT SURVIVED THE GREAT WAR.

SOUNA SHITORI-SAMA'S TRUE NAME IS ***SOHNA SITRI***.

SHE IS THE HEIR TO THE HIGH-RANKING DEVIL HOUSE OF SITRI.

WHAT ...!?

IT'S THANKS TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND US SERVANTS TO THE HOUSE OF SITRI THAT DAILY LIFE AT THIS ACADEMY RUNS SO SMOOTHLY. JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND, AND WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, OKAY?

SORT OF LIKE A DAY-AND-NIGHT SPLIT OF RESPONSI-BILITIES.

SO ARE YOU SAYING ALL THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE...?

DEVILS IN SITRI'S PEERAGE, YES.

THIS IS ***GENSHIROU SAJI***, A SECOND-YEAR SERVING AS SECRETARY FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND A PAWN IN SITRI'S PEERAGE.

DON'T EVEN TRY TO THINK OF ROPING ME INTO ONE OF YOUR PERVY THREESOMES. JUST THE THOUGHT OF IT WOUNDS MY PRIDE...

HEH. KINDA COOL THAT THERE'S ANOTHER "PAWN" IN MY GRADE.

BIKU (JOLT)

SAJI. STOP THAT THIS INSTANT.

LOOKING FOR A FIGHT!? I MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT FOUR WHOLE PAWNS WERE USED TO CREATE ME! I MAY BE NEW AT THIS WHOLE DEVIL THING, BUT NO WAY IN HELL I'LL LOSE TO YOU, HYOUDOU!

HUNH!?

WH-WHAT'D YOU SAY!?

SAJI. YOU COULD NEVER WIN AGAINST HYOUDOU-KUN AS YOU ARE NOW.

WE CAME HERE TODAY SO THAT YOU RELATIVELY NEW MEMBERS COULD MEET. SO DON'T BRING ANY SHAME TO THE SITRI NAME. FURTHERMORE—

B-BUT, COUNCIL PRESI-DENT!

I HOPE THAT AS FELLOW NEW DEVILS, YOU'LL COME TO GET ALONG WITH HIM.

MY APOLOGIES, ISSEI-KUN, ASIA-SAN. MY SERVANT HERE IS EVEN LESS EXPERIENCED THAN YOU TWO. HE STILL NEEDS A LOT OF WORK ON HIS MANNERS.

IF I "GET ALONG" WITH HIM TOO WELL, I'LL CATCH HIS CASE OF STUPID, YOU KNOW?

HAAAAAH.

EIGHT!? AND HE'S THE ONE WHO BEAT RISER...? I THOUGHT IT MUST HAVE BEEN KIBA OR HIMEJIMA-SENPAI FOR SURE...

HE'S THE ONE WHO BEAT THE THIRD SON OF PHOENIX, AFTER ALL. THERE'S A REASON IT TOOK EIGHT PAWNS TO TURN HIM.

BIKUKU

SAJI.

KEH ...!

YES! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

UH, Y-YES. I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.

GUI (SHOVE)

I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO PLAY NICE WITH YOU, ASIA-SAN!

GYU (SQUEEZE)

A HAND-FUL, ISN'T HE?

HAAAA (SIGH)

AS IS YOURS.

KI (GLARE)

I LOVE BOTH THIS ACADEMY AND THE WORK WE DO ON ITS STUDENT COUNCIL.

SO I WILL NOT FORGIVE ANYONE WHO DARES TO DISRUPT THE PEACE WE'VE BUILT HERE.

GYUUUU

YEAH? HEAR YA LOUD AND CLEAR, HYOUDOU-KUN! KEEPING HER ALL TO YOURSELF, THOUGH? YOU'RE JUST AS MUCH OF A SEXUAL PREDATOR AS THEY SAY YOU ARE! JUST DROP DEAD ALREADY, WOULD YA?

HA-HA-HA! SAJI-KUN! I HOPE YOU'LL PLAY NICE WITH ME TOO! THAT IS TO SAY, IF YOU LAY ANOTHER HAND ON ASIA, I'LL KILL YOU!

CRAP. SHE'S MAD...

NOW THAT YOU'VE ALL MET, IT'S TIME FOR US TO BE GOING.

UGH...

ペコ

PEKO (BOW)

YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT— I MEAN, SOHNA SITRI-SAN, ER, SAMA— THANKS FOR EVERYTHING UP UNTIL NOW AND FROM NOW ON.

ISSEI, ASIA, PLAY NICE WITH SAJI-KUN, NOW. I'M SURE YOU'LL ALSO MEET THE OTHER DEVIL MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL SOONER OR LATER, SO DON'T GO STARTING ANY FIGHTS WITH OUR ALLIES AT THIS SCHOOL!

YES, MA'AM!

I AM TOO.

OF COURSE. THANKS TO YOU AS WELL.

RIAS. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMPETI-TION.

生徒会

BUN

BUN (WAVE)

YIPPEEE!

PRESI-DENNNT! KNOCK HER OUT!

COUNCIL PREEEZ! YOU GOT THIIIIS!

WHOO-HOO!

YAYYY!

PI (PWEET)

DAY OF THE ATH-LETIC COMPE-TITION

FLAG: STUDENT COUNCIL / FIGHTING SPIRIT

KYAAAH!

YAYYY!

OOOH!

U-FU-FU. HOW EXCITING THAT WE'LL GET TO SEE A BATTLE BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL DEVILS HERE OF ALL PLACES.

10

PAKON (THWAK)

HERE I COME, SOHNA!

NICE SERVE, RIAS!

BA (WHAP)

GYLOO OWHIRRMO

BUT TAKE THIS! A SITRI-STYLE SPIN BALL!

THAT'S NOTHING! TASTE MY GREMORY-STYLE COUNTER!

GUOO OWHOOMO

IS THAT A MAGIC BALL!?

THAT'S IT!!

YWWWA-

IT SWERVED!?

15-30!

BISHI (ZING)

GUN (VEER)

GOOD JOB, SOHNA. I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM MY RIVAL.

U-FU-FU. I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN OUR LITTLE WAGER? THE LOSER MUST TREAT THE WINNER TO A BOWL OF UDON WITH ALL THE TOPPINGS AT KONISHIYA.

GO (RUMBLE)

GO

GO

GO

GO

I'LL TAKE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT AND THEN SOME. ANYTHING YOU SEND INTO THE SHITORI ZONE WILL BE SENT RIGHT BACK AT YOU!

OF COURSE! BUT I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO WIN! THERE ARE 108 STYLES TO MY MADOU-KYUU, YOU KNOW?

OH MY, MY. U-FU-FU!

UDON?

THE MATCH IS PRETTY DAMN INTENSE, THOUGH...

ISN'T THIS WAGER A BIT TOO LOW-BROW FOR THESE TWO REFINED LADIES...?

♪DING-DONG♪ ♪
♪ WOULD THE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT PLEASE PROCEED TO THE MAIN RECEPTION AREA—? ♪

FINALLY! THE MEET'S ABOUT TO START.

IN THE END, THE PRESIDENT AND THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S FEARSOME MATCH ENDED WHEN BOTH THEIR RACKETS BROKE. THEY WERE EACH GRANTED THE TITLE OF WINNER.

YEAH! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LOSE!

OUR EVENT IS DODGEBALL. WE'VE GOT TO WIN THIS, SO I NEED EVERYONE TO GIVE IT 100%!

ASIA-SAN!?

ISSEI-SAN. WHY DON'T YOU HAND OUT WHAT WE MADE FOR EVERY-ONE?

MUGYU (MOOSH)

D'OW!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT! AND IF WE WIN, YOU'LL GET A SPECIAL REWARD!

A REWARD !?

OHHHHHHH! CAN'T LOSE NOW! THERE ARE BOOBS ON THE LINE!!

BOIIIIN

BOIIIIN (BOING)

HEADBAND: OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB

...BETTER WORKMAN-SHIP THAN I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE SO HANDY, ISSEI.
OH. NICELY DONE.
HEH-HEH-HEH! I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN PRACTIC-ING ON THE SLY.

NOW, KIBA, YOU GOTTA FOCUS ON WINNING HERE.
...Y-YEAH. THANKS.
MY, MY. WELL, WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE OTHER CLUBS ARE ALSO GOING TO BE WEARING SPECIAL ITEMS.
THAT'S RIGHT, AKENO-SAN! THAT'S WHY I WENT AND MADE THESE FOR US!

HEADBAND: SUREFIRE VICTORY

GET HIM! AIM FOR HYOUDOU!

YAAAAY 7 YIPPEEE!

BA (DASH)

STOP MESSING AROUND!

RAAAGH!

WHOAAAA! ONLY AIMING AT ME? DAMN YOU, GUYS.

BUN (THROW)

DIE, BEAST!

TAKE ISSEI DOWN!

AND IF WE HIT KIBA, THE GIRLS'LL BE PISSED AT US! SO THAT LEAVES YOU, HYOUDOU!

NOT TO MENTION YOU DON'T EVEN BELONG IN THE OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB, WITH ALL THOSE BEAUTIES AND THAT PRETTY BOY!

THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD HIT RIAS-SENPAI OR HIMEJIMA-SENPAI, OUR SCHOOL'S TOP TWO LADIES!

AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN GO AFTER ASIA-SAN, THE SWEET, BLONDE BEAUTY, OR KONEKO-CHAN, THE CUTIE WHO'S PRACTICALLY THE SCHOOL MASCOT!

BASUN (THWUMP)

THEY'RE FOCUSING THEIR ATTACKS ON YOU, ISSEI! IN A WAY, I GUESS YOU'RE OUR "SACRIFICE"! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!

I'LL DO MY BESST!

SHIT! THESE GUYS AREN'T PLAYING AROUND!

PASU (TOSS)

HYU (WHIZ)

NICE! AT THIS RATE, WE CAN'T LOSE!

GWAH!

DID YOU SEE THAT COMBO!?

BYU (ZOOM)

DAMN! I DON'T CARE IF THE GIRLS HATE ME! TAKE THIS, PRETTY BOY!

BOOO (DAZED)

DOSHU (GAWHOOM)

HEY, SNAP OUT OF IT ALREADY!

DA (DASH)

GYULIN (SWERVE)

...OH.

ISSEI-KUN?

HA (GASP)

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU—

—!!

ZUN (THOOM)

THE BALL IS RIGHT HERE! YOU DID WELL, ISSEI!

PURU

PURU (SHAKE)

...B... BALLS... My B——

HOW AWFUL...! I CAN'T HAVE ISSEI BECOMING IMPOTENT! ASIA, HURRY UP AND HEAL HIM!

Y-YES! IS ISSEI-SAN HURT!?

OH MY. THAT'S NOT IT. IT'S A DIFFERENT SORT OF BALL THAT HE'S HAVING TROUBLE WITH AT THE MOMENT.

A KEY PART?

YES, A RATHER KEY PART OF HIM... GO AND HELP HIM RECOVER SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE.

? ?

HEADBAND: OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB

ISSEI-SAN! YOU'LL BE OKAY!

...GOT IT.

ZURU

KONEKO, TAKE ISSEI SOMEWHERE HE WON'T BE SEEN.

ZURU (DRAG)

LET ME HEAL YOU NOW.

TH-THEY'RE BOTH SO SWOLLEN...!!

N-NOPE. NOT HAPPENING.

ISSEI-SAN, I WANT TO HEAL YOU, SO PLEASE SHOW ME WHERE YOU GOT HURT.

URGH...

GUSUN (SNIFFLE)

H-HOW COULD YOU!? I'M ONLY TRYING TO...

A-ASIA... PLEASE... DON'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER THAN IT ALREADY IS...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IF YOU DON'T SHOW ME YOUR INJURY, I CAN'T HELP YOU PROPERLY!

ZUKIN

ZUKIN (THROB)

GUSUN (SNIFFLE)

DON'T CRY NOW, ASIA... JUST DIRECT THE HEALING FROM YOUR SACRED GEAR TO THE GENERAL AREA AROUND MY BACKSIDE...

OKAY... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, THEN I'LL DO IT.

HOAAAA (GLOWWW)

...WHAT DID I JUST WALK IN ON?

THANKS, ASIA. THAT FEELS MUCH BETTER.

PHEW!

ISSEI-SAN, LET'S JUST REST HERE A BIT MORE.

NN?

YOU LOOKED REALLY HAPPY WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS LETTING YOU DO THIS...

AND, WELL, I MIGHT NOT BE AS GOOD AT IT, BUT...

SU (SHIFT)

ZAAAA (SSSHHH)

...OH!

IT'S STARTING TO RAIN...

UU... THANKS. THE LAP PILLOW REALLY IS THE BEST.

FUN!

FUN! (SMOOSH)

PAN
(SMACK)

WELL? DID THAT WAKE YOU UP?

WE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO WIN THE GAME, BUT WHEN WE NEEDED TO PULL TOGETHER AS A TEAM, YOUR HEART WASN'T IN IT AT ALL.

WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG WITH YOU?

GARA
(SLIDE)

...KIBA.

ZAAAA
(SSSHHHH)

I'M PRETTY TIRED, SO I THINK I'LL BE SKIPPING CLUB TODAY TOO.

SORRY ABOUT MY PERFORMANCE TODAY. I WASN'T FEELING WELL.

CAN I GO NOW? THE TOURNAMENT'S OVER AT THIS POINT...

GU (GRAB)

KIBA, YOU'VE SERIOUSLY BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

PASHI (SLAP)

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT WORRIED.

WORRIED? WHY BE WORRIED? DEVILS LEAD INHERENTLY SELFISH LIVES.

BUT IT'S FINE IF YOU THINK POORLY OF ME FOR DISOBEYING OUR MASTER.

GIRI (GRIT)

HOLD ON NOW ...

WHY PULL THIS BAD ATTITUDE JUST WHEN WE WERE STARTING TO COME TOGETHER AS A TEAM?

DID YOU FORGET ALL THE SHIT WE FACED WHEN WE FOUGHT RISER'S GROUP?

GASHI (GRAB)

IF WE DON'T STICK TOGETHER AND BACK EACH OTHER UP FROM NOW ON, THINGS AREN'T GONNA END WELL!!

...WE'RE FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.

FRIENDS, HMM...?

SOME-THING ESSEN-TIAL?

YES. I RECALLED WHAT I'M FIGHTING FOR.

PASHI (SMACK)

STOP GETTING SO WORKED UP.

YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING FOR THE PRESI-DENT?

NO, I'M NOT.

ISSEI-KUN, I RECENTLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING ESSENTIAL.

ZAAAAA
(SSSHHHHH)

I'M ONLY LIVING FOR REVENGE.

THE ONLY REASON I CONTINUE TO FIGHT IS TO DESTROY THE HOLY SWORD, EXCALIBUR.

HEADBAND: OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB

LIFE.25: I'LL DRAW ON THE SPIRIT OF THE DRAGON!?

I NEVER REALLY FORGOT ABOUT MY REVENGE AGAINST THE HOLY SWORD EXCALI-BUR.

I JUST LET MYSELF GET WRAPPED UP IN SCHOOL LIFE.

PASHA (SPLASH)

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO STRIVE FOR ANY MORE HAPPI-NESS THAN THIS.

I CAN'T BE AT PEACE LIVING ON FOR MY COMRADES UNTIL I CARRY OUT THEIR WILL...

MY FRIENDS, MY LIFE-STYLE, EVEN MY NAME... IT'S ALL BEEN GRANTED TO ME BY RIAS GREMORY.

CHAPU (SPLISH)

BA (WHAP)

—!?

GIN (CLANG)

ZUZAAAAA (SKIIID)

YAHOO! LONG TIME NO SEE.

HUHHH? WHAT'S UP YOUR BUTT? AND HERE I'VE BEEN WEEPING TEARS OF JOY AT THE THOUGHT OF OUR REUNION!

FREED SELLZEN... WHEN DID YOU SNEAK BACK INTO THIS CITY?

...THAT SWORD IS—!

LIFE.25: I'LL DRAW ON THE SPIRIT OF THE DRAGON!?

HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME SEE WHICH IS BETTER— YOUR DEVIL SWORDS OR MY EXCALIBUR?

THE LOSER GETS TO DIE!

THE HOLY SWORD PROJECT?

IT EXISTED UNTIL JUST A FEW YEARS AGO. THE GOAL WAS TO CULTIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE CAPABLE OF WIELDING THE HOLY SWORD EXCALIBUR.

AND THE CHURCH WAS RUNNING IT?

...THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.

YUUTO WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE PROJECT.

THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE HOLY WEAPON, "*LONGINUS*," THE SACRED GEAR THAT RESIDES IN YOU, ISSEI.

I SUSPECT THAT YOUR LONGINUS, AS A POTENTIAL GOD-KILLER, GOT ITS NAME FROM THE INFAMOUS HOLY SPEAR "*TRUE LONGINUS*" THAT WAS USED TO KILL CHRIST.

HOLY SWORDS ARE TERRIFYING WEAPONS FOR US DEVILS... BUT THEY SAY THAT EVERY FEW DECADES WILL ONLY YIELD A SINGLE POTENTIAL WIELDER.

YUUTO WAS ONE OF THOSE RAISED AND TRAINED TO BE A USER OF HOLY SWORDS. EXCALIBUR, IN PARTICULAR.

...LONGI-NUS.

THE ORGANIZATION IN CHARGE OF TRAINING DESIGNATED YUUTO AND HIS COMPANIONS, WHO COULD NOT ADAPT TO THE SWORDS, "DEFECTIVE GOODS" AND DISPOSED OF THEM.

SO DOES THAT MEAN KIBA CAN ACTUALLY WIELD HOLY SWORDS?

NO. IT TURNED OUT THAT YUUTO TOO WAS INCOMPATI-BLE.

THOSE WITH THE CHURCH LABEL THE VERY EXISTENCE OF US DEVILS EVIL, BUT...

...I THINK HUMANS POSSESS QUITE ENOUGH MALICE THEM-SELVES.

...IT COULDN'T BE. NO ONE WORKING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD COULD DO SOMETHING SO AWFUL.

"DISPOSED" ...? YOU DON'T MEAN...?

DUE TO THE VERY FACT THAT HIS TALENT HAD BEEN WARPED BY THE HOLY SWORDS SINCE BIRTH...

...I BELIEVED I COULD PUT HIM TO USE ONCE HE BECAME A DEVIL.

IT'S JUST A SHAME THAT HIS SPECIALIZED TALENTS FOR SWORDPLAY ARE PARTICULAR TO HOLY SWORDS.

WHEN I TURNED YUUTO INTO A DEVIL, HE WAS SWEARING AN OATH OF VENGEANCE, DESPITE BEING ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.

BUT HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN THE REVENGE HE SWORE AGAINST ALL THOSE INVOLVED WITH HOLY SWORDS...THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

SO THAT'S WHY HE HATES PRIESTS AND HOLY SWORDS SO MUCH. NO WONDER ...

IN ANY CASE, I THINK WE JUST HAVE TO OBSERVE HIM FOR NOW. HIS OBSESSION WITH THE HOLY SWORDS SEEMS TO HAVE RETURNED TO HIM OF LATE...

I HOPE HE MANAGES TO GET BACK TO NORMAL, BUT...

HAAAAA (SIIIGH)

YOU HAVE RELATIVES AFFILIATED WITH THE CHURCH?

NO, NOT RELATIVES.

AH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I THINK IT STARTED WITH THIS PICTURE.

BUT THIS KID WAS A NEIGHBOR OF MINE WHEN I WAS LITTLE. I THINK THE FAMILY WAS CHRISTIAN.

I SEE. TO THINK THAT THERE WAS A HOLY SWORD IN THIS CITY JUST A LITTLE OVER TEN YEARS AGO. HOW TERRIFYING.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THE SWORD IN THE PHOTO IS REALLY A HOLY SWORD?

YES. ONE OF THEM ANYWAY. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE EXCALIBUR, BUT IT'S STILL A TRUE HOLY SWORD. I'VE HEARD THAT THE PREVIOUS DEVIL INHABITANTS OF THIS CITY WERE ANNIHILATED... MAKES ME WONDER...

スッ

SU (STAND)

IN ANY CASE...

WHY'RE YOU TAKING OFF YOUR CLOTHES!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY"? YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW THAT I CAN'T SLEEP UNLESS I'M NAKED.

MOZO (WRIGGLE)

...WHAT DO YOU SAY WE CALL IT A NIGHT?

MU (IRK)

NO, NO, I MEAN...! WHY IN MY ROOM?

BECAUSE I'M SLEEPING WITH YOU, OF COURSE.

ASIA-SAN!?

THEN I AM TOO! I'M ALSO SLEEPING WITH ISSEI-SAN!

BA (WHAP)

ASIA, PLEASE LET ME HAVE HIM TONIGHT.

NO CAN DO.

...I THINK I TOO HAVE THE RIGHT TO FAWN OVER ISSEI-SAN A BIT. SO I WANT TO SLEEP WITH HIM!

BACHI

BACHI (CRACKLE)

WELL, LET'S HAVE ISSEI DECIDE, THEN.

KURU (FWIP)

BIKU (JUMP)

WHA —!?

ISSEI-SAN, WON'T YOU PLEASE SLEEP WITH ME?

URU (TEARY)

JIIII (STARE)

YOU'RE OBVI-OUSLY PICKING ME, RIGHT?

WHAAA-AAAT!?

Zzz...

...NOT BEING ABLE TO TOUCH EITHER ONE, SO I GOT OUT OF BED.

Zzz...

IN THE END, I PICKED BOTH OF THEM, BUT AS I LAY SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE TWO, I WAS GOIN' NUTS...

...PHEW.

JAAAA (FSSSH)

HEH HEH HEH!

HEH-HEH-HEH! WHICH ONE OF YOU GIRLS SHOULD I LOVE ON TODAY?

THE MENTAL IMAGE IS JUST PERFECT, THOUGH...

ISSEI-SAMA! PICK ME!

I SIMPLY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT MY MASTER'S D○×△!

ISSEI'S MENTAL IMAGE
※イメージです

UU...

I'M SO PATHETIC, IT MAKES ME WANNA CRY...

HEY, PARTNER. APOLOGIES FOR CATCHING YOU AT A BAD TIME.

HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE ALL SO EAGER!

...ONII-SAMA, FILL ME UP.

POWAAAN (BLOOM)

!?

DDRAIG! YOU'VE BEEN AWOL SINCE THE WHOLE RISER INCIDENT! YOU'VE TOTALLY BEEN IGNORING ME!

WELL, YOU COULD SAY THAT. BUT I WON'T IGNORE YOU NOW. LET'S CHAT.

BUT FIRST... ...STOP DRAWING ME WITH YOUR CRAYON.

TOMORROW'S THE DAY AKENO-SAN HELPS ME SUPPRESS THE DRAGON'S POWER... EH-HEH-HEH. THAT'S ALWAYS A DIRTY GOOD TIME...

HEY. STOP GETTING YOUR DROOL ON ME.

JYURU (DROOL)

IF DDRAIG IS REACHING OUT TO ME NOW, MAYBE THAT MEANS I'VE SAVED UP A BUNCH OF DRAGON ESSENCE?

...HEY. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU. WHO'S THIS "WHITE BASTARD"?

HEH-HEH-HEH... NOTHING WRONG WITH THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH. ENJOY THEM WHILE YOU CAN. I CANNOT SAY WHEN YOU WILL ENCOUNTER THAT "WHITE BASTARD."

BASHA

YOUR HEAD IS FILLED WITH INDECENT THOUGHTS PER USUAL, I SEE.

BASHA (SPLASH)

SHUT UPPP! THERE'S BEEN A LOT GOING ON LATELY!

"VANISHING DRAGON."

—THE WHITE DRAGON.

YEAH.

YOU KNOW OF THE GREAT WAR THAT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN HEAVEN, THE FALLEN ANGELS, AND THE DEVILS LONG AGO?

V-VAN-ISHING... DRAGON?

WHY'S THAT?

ONLY THE DRAGONS REFUSED TO ALLY WITH ANY ONE SIDE.

DURING THE WAR, ALL SORTS OF BEINGS LENT THEIR STRENGTH TO EACH OF THE THREE POWERS. FAIRIES, GHOSTS, WESTERN MONSTERS, EASTERN SPIRITS, EVEN HUMANS.....

HOW-EVER

THEY SOUND LIKE TROUBLE... THAT'S FREEDOM FANATICS FOR YA.

BY NATURE, DRAGONS ARE EXTRAORDINARILY POWERFUL EMBODIMENTS OF FREE WILL. WE ARE INHERENTLY SELFISH.

THERE WERE A FEW WHO JOINED UP WITH THE FACTIONS, BUT MOST DRAGONS SAW THE WAR AS NONE OF THEIR CONCERN.

...TWO DRAGONS BEGAN A FIGHT OF THEIR OWN DURING THE WAR.

THEY WERE DRAGONS OF THE HIGHEST POWER CLASS, COMPARABLE EVEN TO GOD AND THE DEVIL KING.

COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT TO THE WAR GOING ON AROUND THEM. THEIR VIOLENT BATTLES RESULTED IN CASUALTIES ON ALL SIDES.

THERE WAS NO GREATER NUISANCE TO THE THREE POWERS.

IN THEIR FURY, THE THREE POWERS DECIDED TO JOIN FORCES FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THEY WERE THE WORST, HUH!? WHAT WAS THE FIGHT ABOUT ANYWAY?

"THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT TO FIGHT OVER IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF THESE TWO DRAGONS FIRST! WE SHOULD COOPERATE TO TAKE THEM DOWN."

...SO THEY DECID-ED.

HMM. IT WAS NO DOUBT A TRIVIAL THING, ONE I CANNOT EVEN RECALL. MOST LIKELY AN ARGUMENT ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER BEING AMUSING OR NOT.

BUT THAT JUST WOULD NOT STAND.

ENRAGED AT HAVING THEIR FIGHT INTERRUPTED, THE TWO DRAGONS LASHED OUT AGAINST GOD, THE DEVIL KING, AND THE LEADER OF THE FALLEN ANGELS.

SO THE THREE WARRING POWERS MADE AN ALLIANCE... ALL JUST TO GET RID OF THESE FIGHTING DRAGONS.

USING THE HUMANS IN WHOM THEIR SOULS HAD BEEN SEALED AS INTERMEDIARIES, THEY WOULD CLASH TIME AND TIME AGAIN THROUGHOUT THE AGES.

IN THE END, THE TWO DRAGONS WERE CUT TO PIECES AND SCATTERED TO THE WINDS, THEIR SOULS LOCKED AWAY INSIDE THE BODIES OF HUMANS, AS SACRED GEARS.

INDEED. I CAME TO DWELL WITHIN YOU, AND THEN YOU BECAME A DEVIL. IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE OCCUPIED ONE, SO I'M RATHER LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR REMATCH. I WONDER HOW THINGS WILL TURN OUT THIS TIME...

SO I'M GUESSING YOU AND THIS VANISHING DRAGON ARE THE TWO IN THE STORY?

THEIR SPIRITS WOULD WANDER THE EARTH UNTIL THE NEXT HUMAN VESSEL FIT TO CONTAIN THEM WAS BORN.

WHENEVER THEIR RESPECTIVE HUMANS DIED, THE DRAGONS WOULD ALSO TEMPORARILY CEASE TO FUNCTION.

I WANNA BECOME A HIGH-CLASS DEVIL... AND THEN THE HAREM KING!

DON (BAM)

AHEM!

LISTEN UP, DRAGON.

I'LL HAVE A BUNCH OF GIRLS AS MY DEVIL SERVANTS AND RAISE UP AN ARMY OF BEAUTIES JUST FOR ME! THAT'S MY DREAM!

HUH? YOU SAYING I'M WEIRD?

BE THAT AS IT MAY, YOU ARE STILL THE EMISSARY OF A DRAGON—

HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE THE FIRST OF MY HOSTS TO EVER HOLD SUCH A DREAM. YOU CAN BATHE YOURSELF IN MY POWER OR TREMBLE IN FEAR OF IT. WHICHEVER YOU CHOOSE, YOUR LIFE WILL BE ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY.

...I'M NOT SURE I LIKE WHERE THIS IS HEADED. ARE YOU SAYING A BUNCH OF PEOPLE ARE GONNA COME AFTER ME?

DRAGONS INEVITABLY AND UNWITTINGLY ENCHANT THOSE AROUND THEM. WHETHER THOSE WHO EMERGE ADMIRE YOU OR COME TO CHALLENGE YOU, KNOW THAT THEY ARE ATTRACTED BY MY POWER, THE POWER OF THE DRAGON.

THANK YOU FOR THIS BLESSING.

THOSE WHO HAVE HOSTED ME IN THE PAST HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SURROUNDED BY MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. THERE WERE SOME WHO SLEPT WITH A DIFFERENT WOMAN NIGHTLY.

OHHHH... THAT'S AWESOME! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SUCH AN AMAZING SACRED GEAR!

DON'T SEE THE GLASS AS HALF-EMPTY, THOUGH. THAT INCLUDES THE FAIRER SEX.

F-FOR REAL!?

IS IT STRONG?

QUITE THE FAIR-WEATHER FRIEND YOU ARE...BUT IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING. HOPEFULLY, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO AVOID BEING KILLED BY THE VANISHING DRAGON.

I SEE. SO ME AND WHOEVER'S GOT THE VANISHING DRAGON INSIDE THEM CAN GET THAT STRONG IF WE LEARN HOW TO USE OUR SACRED GEARS RIGHT.

...EVEN SO, IF YOU CAN TRAIN YOURSELF TO DRAW ON MY POWER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO HIGH-CLASS DEVILS AND HIGH-RANKING FALLEN ANGELS ALIKE.

OH, IT'S STRONG ALL RIGHT.

AS FOR YOU, THIS SEAL PREVENTS ME FROM UNLEASHING MY FULL POWER TO AID YOU, BUT...

NOPE. SUCK!

EITHER WAY, MY GOAL AT THIS POINT IS THE PRESIDENT'S BOOBS. I WANNA...

TOUCH THEM?

FUN! (FONDLE)

...I-IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT...

FUN!

A MAN SHOULD ALWAYS SET LOFTY GOALS FOR HIMSELF! A GUY WHO CAN BE SATISFIED BY SIMPLY TOUCHING BOOBS IS ONLY A SECOND-RATE PERV! THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA SUCK ON THE PRESIDENT'S BOOBS!

YEAH! LET'S DO IT TOGETHER, GOOD BUDDY!

SURE.

WHY NOT, FRIEND.

HAAAAA (SIIIGH)

...SO I'LL BE SUPPORTING YOUR QUEST TO SUCKLE ON A WOMAN'S BREASTS... I HAVE FALLEN FAR. INDEED. BUT THAT TOO MAY PROVE INTERESTING. HAVING A PARTNER LIKE YOU ONCE IN A WHILE ISN'T A BAD THING, I SUPPOSE.

DDRAIG! I'LL NEED YOU TO LEND ME YOUR POWER!

BAAAN (BAMM)

SHURU (SHWIP)

IT'S, WELL ...

THE WAY TO DISPEL THE POWER OF THE DRAGON IS...

WHEN YOU LET YOUR HAIR DOWN, IT'S PRETTY LONG TOO, AKENO-SAN!!

Y-YES! THANKS FOR DOING THIS AS ALWAYS!

I'M ALL READY. SHALL WE BEGIN?

ISSEI-KUN, PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR LEFT ARM.

SLI (SWF)

I'LL NOW BE DRAWING OUT SOME OF THE DRAGON'S SPIRIT THAT RESIDES IN YOUR ARM THROUGH YOUR FINGER. THIS WILL PREVENT YOUR ARM FROM TRANSFORMING INTO THAT OF THE DRAGON.

WHOO-EEE!

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

ZOKU

NYUPU (PLOP)

CHUPU (SMACK)

NN!

KUCHU (SUCK)

MMNH!

KUPU (SUPOP)

JUBU (SLURP)

NFU!

PERO (LICK)

CHIRO (PEEK)

JYURU (DROOL)

HAAH!

UZU (EAGER)

M-MORE!?

OH MY, MY! GETTING SUCH A RAW REACTION FROM YOU JUST MAKES ME WANT TO GIVE YOU A BIT MORE ON THE HOUSE.

BUBA (SPLORT)

TSUU (DRIBBLE)

W-WAIT, AKENO-SAN!?

I MIGHT NOT SHOW IT, BUT I'M INTERESTED IN YOU, ISSEI-KUN.

YES. I DON'T SEE THE HARM IN GIVING MY KOUHAI A LITTLE LOVE.

GUI

GUI (TUG)

AT FIRST, YOU WERE JUST MY CUTE, INNOCENT UNDER-CLASSMAN, BUT YOU'VE CHANGED...

DURING YOUR RECENT BATTLE WITH PHOENIX, WHEN YOU KEPT GETTING BACK UP NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE KNOCKED YOU DOWN...

...SEEING THAT MARVELOUS FIGHT BETWEEN YOU TWO ***STIRRED*** SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN ME.

ST-STIRRED SOME-THING ...?

EVER SINCE THEN, I SOMETIMES FIND MY THOUGHTS STRAYING TO YOU, AND A WARMTH RISES IN MY BREAST...

THEN WHEN I'M PLEASURING YOU DURING OUR LITTLE SESSIONS, THE URGE TO TEASE YOU AND KEEP GOING JUST WELLS UP INSIDE ME.

...COULD THIS BE LOVE, I WONDER?

BUT I'M SURE RIAS WOULD BE PEEVED IF I WERE TO REALLY LAY A HAND ON YOU. WHEN IT COMES TO YOU, SHE... WELL, U-FU-FU, YOU'RE A SINFUL MAN, AREN'T YOU, ISSEI-KUN?

...SIN-FUL? ME!?

スッ (SU) (RISE)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A FLING WITH ME?

F-FLING!?

I TOO WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE AND INDULGE IN BEING THE OBJECT OF A YOUNGER MAN'S LUST...I HAVE AN UNEXPECTEDLY MASOCHISTIC SIDE, YOU KNOW. I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY HARM IN ATTEMPTING TO ALLOW A MAN INSIDE ME *ONCE.*

BUT YOU MUSTN'T TELL THE PRESIDENT OR ASIA-CHAN ABOUT WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO. OUR LITTLE SECRET WILL JUST HAVE TO BURN AWAY INSIDE YOU.

WHAT? WELL, I MUST SAY THAT'S A SURPRISE. I WAS SURE YOU AND THE PRESIDENT HAD...

BUT I—! I...I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY DONE IT...!

YES. I'M A *VIRGIN.* U-FU-FU. I KNOW YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE, ISSEI-KUN, SO I'D BE PLEASED TO LET YOU TAKE THE LEAD.

ONCE...? WAIT, YOU CAN'T MEAN...

OH MY. THE PRESIDENT'S REALLY DRAGGING HER FEET, ISN'T SHE? WELL, WHAT ABOUT ASIA-CHAN?

NO, NO, WE HAVEN'T! I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE ANY BUSINESS BEING ANYONE'S FIRST!

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT WITH EITHER OF THEM, ISSEI-KUN?

ATAFUTA (PANIC)

ESPECIALLY NOT HER! IT'S MY JOB TO WATCH OUT FOR ASIA, SO I COULD NEVER...

IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO DEFLOWER YOU, ISSEI-KUN...

WHAT A SHAME... YOU'RE ALL LATE BLOOMERS, BUT I'M SURE IT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE MOOD WERE RIGHT.

I WANT TO!

I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I'M MEANT TO TAKE THAT FINAL STEP...

AH...

ZOKU (CHILL)

!

...AKENO.

BAN (WHAM)

GO

GO

GO

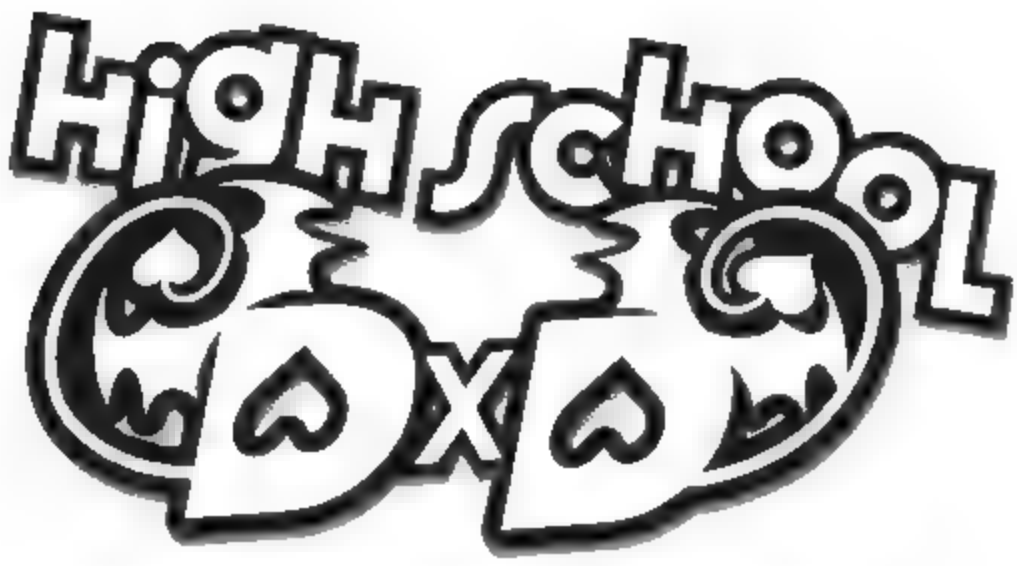
GO

GO

GO

GO (RUMBLE)

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE?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LIFE.26: I'LL CUT THROUGH THE MADNESS!

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE?

OH MY. WE HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING ALL THE WAY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

...OH YEAH? BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT SOMETHING ELSE WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

U-FU-FU. WE WERE JUST DISPELLING THE DRAGON'S POWER.

WORKING BY THE BOOK MAKES FOR SLOW GOING, NO?

EVEN SO, THERE ARE LIMITS, AKENO. EVEN I HAVEN'T...

KOSO (SNEAK)

BACHI (CRACKLE)

...

N-NAH AR ALL! I-I WUZH JUZH...

MUGYUUU (PIIINCH)

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE HAVING QUITE A BIT OF FUN, HMM?

...ISSEI.

BIKU (JUMP)

DO AS YOU PLEASE!

PUKUUUU (POUT)

HUH?

I THINK YOUR RELATIONSHIP HAS GONE TO THE NEXT LEVEL, ISSEI-KUN.

JEALOUSY IS SO CUTE ON HER.

BAN (SLAM)

YEAH... I THINK I MADE HER MAD...

WASN'T THE PRESIDENT WITH YOU EARLIER?

OH, OKAY. BUT...

...I'VE BEEN GIVING THE PRESIDENT A HARD TIME LATELY TOO, SO IT MIGHT BE MY DOING...

YEAH, IT WAS KINDA MY FAULT. I'M GONNA APOLOGIZE LATER, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, ASIA.

...WAS IT SOME-THING YOU DID?

IT'S FINE. I'M SURE SHE'S NOT MAD AT YOU, ASIA.

ZOKU (CHILL)

HE'S IN THE HOUSE—!!

THIS IS THE SAME SENSE OF DREAD I HAD THAT ONE TIME...

MOM!

BAN (SLAM)

OH. WELCOME HOME. WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?

ARE THEY EXORCISTS ...?

HI THERE, ISSEI-KUN.

...M-MOM?

HAUUUH. THANK GOOD-NESS.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

HUH? YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME?

WHAAAAT!? I WAS SURE YOU WERE A BOY!!

REMEMBER NOW?

...HUH?

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TOMBOY BACK THEN, BUT SHE'S GROWN INTO QUITE THE LADY. I WAS SURPRISED TOO.

THIS GIRL HERE. *IRINA SHIDOU-* CHAN.

BUT A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE I LEFT.

I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING THAT. I ALWAYS LIKED PLAYING WITH BOYS, AND I WAS KIND OF A TROUBLE-MAKER.

I CAN TELL THAT WHATEVER'S WRAPPED UP THERE IS REAL DANGEROUS... MIGHT BE SOMETHING USED TO KILL DEVILS.

IT'S THAT.

...THERE'S NOTHING ORDINARY ABOUT THESE TWO. SOME-THING ABOUT THEM IS MAKING MY SKIN TINGLE.

SHE KNOWS I'M A DEVIL.

SHE'S REAL-IZED—

IT'S TRUE. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN PEOPLE REUNITE.

I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK TO JAPAN IN A WHILE, SO I STARTED FEELING NOSTALGIC AND JUST HAD TO COME BY AND SAY HELLO.

BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME WE LEFT, ISN'T IT, XENOVIA?

YES.

DON'T WORRY. WE'RE HEADING OUT NOW.

I WISH YOU COULD'VE STAYED LONGER.

OH, WE'LL PROBABLY BE BY AGAIN AT SOME POINT.

BUT UNTIL THEN, SEE YA, ISSEI-KUN.

ZOKU (CHILL)

I'LL BE READY AT ANY TIME.

PATAN (SHUT)

GABA (YANK)

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

ARE YOU HURT? WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?

ISSEI! ASIA!

BAN (WHAM)

RIGHT, OF COURSE... WHEN I HEARD THAT CHURCH AFFILIATES WERE SPOTTED SNEAKING AROUND TOWN, I COULDN'T HELP BUT WORRY...

W-WE'RE FINE. MOM IS JUST AN ORDINARY HUMAN, SO I GUESS THEY WERE HESITANT TO START ANYTHING...

IF I WERE TO GO AND LOSE YOU TWO RIGHT AFTER WE ARGUED...

I'M SO SORRY. I SHOULD'VE TREATED YOU BETTER...

I'M SO GLAD YOU TWO ARE OKAY.

ISSEI-SAN AND I ARE JUST FINE.

AH, SURE IS NICE TO BE LOVED BY THE PRESIDENT LIKE THIS. I-I WONDER IF NOW'S THE RIGHT TIME TO ASK FOR SOMETHING RIDICULOUS?.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

GYU (HUG)

WAHOOF!

AND I'M SORRY FOR TALKING BACK TO YOU. I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING ISSEI-SAN AWAY FROM ME, PRESIDENT... I THOUGHT I WOULD LOSE HIM TO YOU...

PRESIDENT. YOUR BOOBS.

GON (BONK)

GUI (SHOVE)

NO. NO GOOD.

OF COURSE. I UNDER-STAND. I REALLY DO SPOIL YOU, THOUGH—

MWOO-HOO-HOO...

AWW. AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET LUCKY...

WHY WOULD PEOPLE FROM THE CHURCH NEGOTIATE WITH DEVILS?

AHEM!

SOHNA APPARENTLY RAN INTO THOSE TWO EARLIER, AND ACCORDING TO HER, THEY WERE LOOKING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DEVILS WHO CONTROL THIS CITY. —IN OTHER WORDS, WITH US.

IS THAT REALLY A GOOD IDEA...?

THEY'RE GOING TO MEET US IN THE CLUBROOM TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL.

TO BE HONEST, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY WANT.

I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT PRIESTS WHO WERE VISITING THE CITY WERE MASSACRED. I WONDER IF THEY'RE HERE ABOUT THAT BIT OF TROUBLE.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY TO COME TO DEVILS FOR HELP...THEY MUST REALLY BE IN QUITE A PINCH...

I HEARD THAT THEY'VE VOWED ON THEIR GOD NOT TO ATTACK US.

GI
(GLARE)

THREE OF THE EXCALIBUR SWORDS MAINTAINED BY THE CHURCH WERE RECENTLY STOLEN.

YES, ISSEI-KUN. THE TRUE EXCALIBUR WAS BROKEN IN A WAR LONG AGO.

HOW COULD SUCH A FAMOUS BLADE BE BROKEN?

WAIT, YOU MEAN THE LEGENDARY EXCALIBUR IS ACTUALLY MULTIPLE SWORDS?

THE FRAGMENTS OF THE BROKEN EXCALIBUR WERE GATHERED AND REFORGED INTO SEVEN NEW BLADES... THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

IT ENDED UP THUS.

EXCALIBUR DESTRUC-TION.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS RESPON-SIBLE FOR THIS ONE.

LINE

LINE (WRIGGLE)

SHURUN (UNWRAP)

AND HERE'S MINE—

EXCALIBUR MIMIC.

...IN THE SHAPE OF A JAPANESE KATANA.♥

GIRI GIRI

GIRI (TENSE)

...SO WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU TWO WANT FROM US?

AND IN THE MEANTIME, WOULD YOU MIND SHEATHING THOSE?

IT'S REAL CONVENIENT BECAUSE I CAN CHANGE ITS FORM HOWEVER I WANT.

THE CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, AND ORTHODOX CHURCHES EACH POSSESS TWO OF THE SEVEN SWORDS. THE SEVENTH WENT MISSING SHORTLY AFTER THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN THE THREE POWERS.

SINCE THEN, EACH OF THE DENOMINATIONS HAS HAD ONE OF THEIR SWORDS STOLEN FROM THEM, AND WE BELIEVE THEY WERE BROUGHT TO THIS AREA.

AN EXECUTIVE OF THE "GRIGORI," A FALLEN ANGEL ORGANI-ZATION—

KOKABIEL.

THAT WAS CARELESS... WHO DO THEY SUSPECT IS THE THIEF?

THE OTHER DAY, HE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT A GROUP OF EXORCISTS THAT WAS DISPATCHED HERE.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO OUR DEMAND. NO...OUR REQUEST, RATHER—

A FALLEN ANGEL ORGANI-ZATION!?

AND KOKA-BIEL... HIS NAME APPEARS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE BIBLE...

WE ASK THAT YOU DEVILS NOT INTERVENE IN THIS FIGHT BETWEEN US AND THE GRIGORI OVER THE EXCALIBUR SWORDS. IN OTHER WORDS—

STAY OUT OF THIS.

NO NEED FOR SUCH A TONE. ARE YOU WORRIED WE WOULD TEAM UP WITH THE FALLEN ANGELS?

THE HIGHER-UPS CERTAINLY CONSIDERED THAT POS-SIBILITY.

I SWEAR ON THE NAME OF GREMORY THAT I WOULD NEVER SIDE WITH FALLEN ANGELS.

WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR YOUR HELP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ALLYING WITH US ON THE SIDE OF GOD—EVEN TEMPORARILY—WOULD CAUSE GREAT UPSET TO THE THREE-WAY BALANCE.

HAS THE ORTHODOX CHURCH TAKEN ANY ACTION YET?

THEY'RE HOLDING BACK FOR NOW. BUT I SUSPECT THEY'VE GOT THEIR FINAL SWORD UNDER HEAVY LOCK AND KEY.

INDEED WE DO.

SO YOU TWO HOPE TO RETRIEVE THE SWORDS FROM KOKABIEL ON YOUR OWN? THAT SEEMS RECKLESS... A GOOD WAY TO GET YOURSELVES KILLED.

TO THAT END, WE VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS MISSION. THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STAND AGAINST AN EXCALIBUR IS ANOTHER EXCALIBUR.

THE CHURCH HAS DETERMINED THAT THE EXCALIBUR SWORDS ARE BETTER OFF DESTROYED THAN UTILIZED BY THE FALLEN ANGELS. THE GOAL IS TO RENDER THEM UNUSABLE BY THE FALLEN AT ANY COST.

WELL... LET'S JUST LEAVE THAT TO YOUR IMAGINA-TION.

YOU'RE CONFIDENT. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF SECRET WEAPON?

BUT OF COURSE. WE DON'T INTEND TO DIE.

YOUR FAITH IS AS BLIND AS EVER... WILL THE TWO OF YOU REALLY BE ENOUGH TO PULL THIS OFF?

OH? WOULDN'T YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

WE'RE DONE HERE. LET'S GO, IRINA.

SORRY, BUT NO, THANK YOU. PARDON US.

NO NEED.

...YOU'RE THE "WITCH," ASIA ARGENTO, AREN'T YOU?

I HAD MY SUSPICIONS WHEN WE MET AT ISSEI HYOUDOU'S HOUSE, BUT...

DON'T WORRY. WE WON'T TELL ANYONE WE FOUND YOU HERE.

...OH. WELL... I...

THEY SAY YOU WERE EXCOMMUNICATED AND THAT YOU WOUND UP ROAMING THE WORLD. NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BECOME A DEVIL, THOUGH.

SO YOU'RE THE "SAINT," HUH? I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU.

.....

I'M SURE IT WOULD SHOCK THOSE WHO KNEW YOU AS "SAINT" ASIA TO FIND OUT HOW YOU ENDED UP.

HOW COULD A DEVIL POSSIBLY MAINTAIN HER BELIEF IN THE LORD?

BUT A DEVIL, REALLY? THAT'S ABOUT AS FAR AS A SAINT COULD FALL. DO YOU EVEN STILL BELIEVE IN OUR ONE TRUE GOD?

THAT SAID, THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BETRAYED THE LORD AND CHOSEN TO LIVE IN SIN BUT HAVE NOT COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THEIR FAITH...I FEEL THAT YOU MAY BE ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL.

...I COULD NEVER ABANDON MY FAITH. IT'S BROUGHT ME THIS FAR, AFTER ALL...

IS THAT SO? THEN IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT WE SHOULD END YOUR LIFE.

SHOW YOUR CONVICTION IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

SINFUL THOUGH YOU MAY BE, THE LORD WILL REACH OUT AND SAVE YOUR SOUL.

SCREW YOU!

BA (WHAP)

IF YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE BASTARDS WHO CAN'T SEE WHAT A KIND HEART ASIA HAS, THEN YOU'RE MORONS TOO!

WHEN ASIA NEEDED HELP, NOT A SINGLE ONE OF YOU CAME TO SAVE HER, DID YOU!?

NONE OF YOU COULD EVER HOPE TO UNDERSTAND ASIA'S PAIN! DON'T YOU DARE THROW GOD AND LOVE AROUND IN MY FACE!!

...HOW FUCKED UP IS THAT?

SO IF SOMEONE YOU WENT AND CALLED A "SAINT" TURNS OUT A BIT DIFFERENT THAN YOU'D HOPED, YOU JUST GO AND ABANDON HER?

A SAINT HAS NO NEED OF FRIENDS. ALL THAT MATTERS IS UNTAINTED COMPASSION AND LOVE. IF GOD HAD TRULY LOVED HER, SHE COULD HAVE GONE ON LIVING.

AND WHAT ARE YOU TO HER ANYWAY?

GOD'S LOVE IS TRUE. IF HER FAITH HAD BEEN STRONG ENOUGH, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE. OR MAYBE HER FAITH WAS A LIE FROM THE START.

HER FAMILY! HER FRIEND! HER ALLY! THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO PROTECT HER!

IF YOU LAY A HAND ON ASIA, I'M BRINGING THE FIGHT TO YOUR WHOLE DAMN CHURCH.

THIS IS PERFECT. I'LL BE YOUR OPPO-NENT.

AND WHO ARE YOU?

YOU WOULD DARE CHALLENGE THE CHURCH? THIS LITTLE DEVIL SURE HAS A MOUTH ON HIM...

YOUR SENPAI.

GICHI! (SKREEK)

THOUGH A FAILED ONE, BY ALL COUNTS.

GICHI

GICHI

LIFE.27: DEVIL SWORD vs. HOLY SWORD! A FIERCE BATTLE!

BEFORE WE BEGIN, ALLOW ME TO CONFIRM...

YUUTO WON'T REST EASY UNTIL THIS IS OVER, AFTER ALL...

YES.

...THIS IS A FIGHT OVER A PRIVATE MATTER THAT NEEDN'T CONCERN THE CHURCH AT LARGE. WE WON'T MAKE ANYTHING MORE OF IT, AND NEITHER WILL YOU? IS THAT CORRECT?

I SHALL TEST THEM BOTH.

THE POWER OF RIAS GREMORY'S PEERAGE, AND THAT OF ONE OF OUR ALLEGED "SENIORS"—

.....YOU LAUGH?

HEH HEH

ISSEI. THIS IS NO ORDINARY FIGHT. TAKE EXTRA CARE NOT TO BE HIT BY THOSE HOLY SWORDS!

R-RIGHT!

I'VE WANTED TO DESTROY THEM SO BADLY, AND NOW HERE THEY ARE IN FRONT OF ME.

I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER.

GIRI (GRIT)

WHOA NOW. THIS ISN'T A BATTLE TO THE DEATH! LET'S JUST MAKE THIS A CASUAL MATCH! I'M BEGGING YOU, KIBA...

I HEARD ONE OF THE TEST SUBJECTS FROM THE HOLY SWORD PROJECT MIGHT HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE PURGE. SO THAT WAS YOU?

WELL... IRINA SHIDOU... I SAID WHAT I WANTED TO SAY ABOUT YOU GUYS BAD-MOUTHING ASIA, SO WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.

WE FINALLY SEE EACH OTHER AFTER SO LONG, AND IT TURNS OUT YOU'VE GONE AND BECOME A DEVIL. I'M SHOCKED.

ISSEI HYOUDOU-KUN.

HOW CRUEL IS FATE TO TURN MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND INTO A DEVIL! PERHAPS THIS IS MERELY ANOTHER TRIAL FROM GOD!

I WILL OVERCOME THIS TOO. ONCE MORE, I WILL ALLOW MY FAITH TO LEAD ME DOWN THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

I WAS SHIPPED OFF TO ENGLAND AFTER THEY DISCOVERED MY APTITUDE FOR HOLY SWORDS. ALL I'VE WANTED SINCE THEN IS TO BE USEFUL IN MY ROLE AS AN AGENT OF THE LORD.

NOW THEN, ISSEI-KUN! MY EXCALIBUR WILL JUDGE THE WEIGHT OF YOUR SINS! AMEN!

HUH...? SEEMS LIKE SHE'S THE TYPE OF GIRL WHO JUST CAN'T SAY NO TO A FIGHT!!

BOOST!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, BUT HERE WE GO! BOOSTED GEAR, LET'S DO THIS!

THAT'S THE BOOSTED GEAR? TO THINK WE'D ENCOUNTER IT HERE...

...LONGI-NUS.

GIN (CLANG)

ZA (FINISH)

GET DISTRACTED BY ISSEI-KUN, AND YOU WON'T ESCAPE UN-SCATHED.

MY STRENGTH COMES FROM THE REGRET AND SORROW OF MY MURDERED COMRADES. I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF THEIR HATRED, AND THAT EXCALIBUR WILL BE BROKEN BY MY POWER!

NOTHING BUT HERETICAL SACRED GEARS. ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE THEY WOULD BE, CONSIDERING YOU DEVILS ARE THE ONES USING THEM.

"SWORD BIRTH," "BOOSTED GEAR," "TWILIGHT HEALING"—

ZUZAZA (SKIID)

HERE I COME, ISSEI-KUN!

NIYA (LEER)

I'LL JUST DODGE WHILE I BIDE MY TIME AND LOOK FOR AN OPENING. THEN I'LL END IT WITH "DRESS BREAK"!

HYU (WHIZ)

WHOA!

...WHAT A SKETCHY FACE HE'S MAKING. WHAT COULD HE BE PLOTTING?

...PLEASE WATCH OUT. ISSEI-SENPAI HAS A MOVE THAT LETS HIM TEAR AWAY THE CLOTHES OF ANY GIRL HE TOUCHES.

KO-NEKO-CHAN!?

HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT! WITH THOSE PITYING EYES!

...YOU ARE THE WORST.

HOW AWFUL! OH LORD! PLEASE SAVE YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR SOMEONE MORE DESERVING THAN THIS SINFUL PERVERT!

DON'T APOLO-GIZE FOR ME!

I'M SORRY ABOUT HIM.

I SEE. SO HE'S TRULY A PERSONIFICA-TION OF LUST. FROM THE START, HE DID STRIKE ME AS A PARTICULARLY LEWD DEVIL.

ISSEI-SAN! IF YOU CRAVE NAKED FEMALE FLESH SO MUCH, PLEASE JUST ASK ME!

HOW CAN YOU TELL ME SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

"FLARE BRAND" AND "FREEZER MIST"!!

GET IT TOGETHER... AND BURN! THEN FREEZE TO THE BONE!

THE QUICK MOVEMENTS OF A KNIGHT COMBINED WITH DEVIL SWORDS OF FIRE AND ICE...

...IT STILL WON'T DO!

BUN (SWING)

HYU (WHIZ)

—!

GIN (CLANG)

DOGO
(KABOOM)

A CRATER LIKE THAT? FROM A LITTLE SWING? HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO DESTROY THIS ONE... LET ALONE SEVEN, KIBA?

...SO STRONG, DESPITE NOT EVEN BEING THE TRUE EXCALIBUR... DESTROYING ALL SEVEN WON'T BE A SIMPLE TASK.

MY "EXCALIBUR DESTRUCTION" IS THE EMBODIMENT OF RUIN. THERE'S NOTHING IT CAN'T SMASH.

KUH ...!

Boost!!

TA (TMP)

!!

I THINK WE'LL BE DONE OVER HERE SOON TOO!

HYU (FWOOSH)

Boost!!

THE CREDIT GOES TO MY MISTRESS AND HER HARSH TRAINING! I'VE FACED PLENTY OF OPPONENTS WAY ABOVE MY LEVEL!

NOT BAD! YOU'VE DONE YOUR WORK!

AND I'VE DONE IT WITH THIS!

DOKUN (BADUM)

LET'S GO! BOOSTED GEAR!

<EXPLOSION!!>

BUWA (WHOOSH)

NOT DONE YET!

BYU (ZOOM)

HOW INDE-CENT!

TIME TO STRIP YOU DOWN! SORRY!

GYUN (SPIN)

!!

...SENPAI'S PERVY INSTINCTS ARE ENHANCING HIS PHYSICAL ABILITIES.

OH MY, MY.

ISSEI-KUN'S MOVEMENTS ARE LOOKING SHARPER THAN USUAL.

MWEH-HEH-HEH!

I'M GONNA ENJOY THIS!

JIRI (SHIFT)

CHASING AFTER ME LIKE THIS IS...! IT'S JUST ...!

SA (DUCK)

ぽん

PON (PAT)

DRESS BREAK!

B-BUT THANKS ALL THE SAME! I'M SURE THERE'S A DEMAND OUT THERE FOR PERKY LITTLE BOOBS...HUH?

K-KONEKO-CHAN! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...! IT'S JUST 'COS IRINA SHIDOU DODGED, YOU SEE...! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS AIMING FOR YOU AND ASIA!

ZUZAAAA (SKIIID)

GWAH!

GAH-HAH!

...SUPER-PERV!

GU (CLENCH)

...WHY, YOU...

ZUMU (KAPOW).

UM, I BELIEVE THIS IS DIVINE RETRIBUTION IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INDECENT ATTACK. SHOULD YOU SURVIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN, WON'T YOU PLEASE STOP USING THAT MOVE?

ISSEI-KUN, ARE YOU ALIVE?

...N-NO WAY... THAT'S MY SPECIAL TECHNIQUE. IT USES ALL THE MAGICAL POWER I'VE GOT. I'LL KEEP TEARING CLOTHES OFF OF GIRLS NO MATTER WHAT...

GU (STRAIN)

"

THE REAL QUESTION IS WHETHER I SHOULD OPT FOR THIS ONE OR ANOTHER SKILL THAT JUST MAKES CLOTHES INVISIBLE...

I'LL KEEP ON FIGHTING, CHANNELING ALL MY WILL INTO EFFORTS TO STRIP IT ALL OFFA YA!

BUWA (ROAR)

AH WAH WAH

SO HE'S COME AS FAR AS HE HAS WITH NOTHING BUT HIS LIBIDO!

DAN (THWAM)

OH LORD. LEND ME THE STRENGTH TO PUT AN END TO THIS LUSTY DEVIL! AMEN!

LIBIDO IS POWER! IT'S MY JUSTICE!

GLIN (WHIP)

GA (WHAM)

GYU (SQUEAK)

KIN (SHNNG)

I APOLOGIZE. I UNDERESTIMATED YOU. YOU MOVE QUITE WELL.

SHUUUU (FWSSSH)

IF THE CUT HAD GONE ANY DEEPER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORTAL WOUND.

BUT DEVILS AND FALLEN ANGELS ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO HOLY BLADES. ONE DIRECT HIT, AND YOUR POWER AND VERY EXISTENCE WOULD DRAIN AWAY.

CHA (CHIK)

YOU LOST BECAUSE YOU WERE UNABLE TO PERCEIVE THE GAP IN STRENGTH BETWEEN US. IN A REAL MATCH, THAT WOULD PROVE FATAL.

GAKUN (SLUMP)

WHAT THE HELL...

BUT WITH JUST ONE MORE POWER-UP, I KNOW YOU COULD HAVE DODGED EVEN THAT.

...IS...

...THIS ...?

DOSHA (THUD)

...SHIT. I'M TOTALLY DRAINED.

LET'S SEE WHICH IS STRON-GER! THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF YOUR HOLY SWORD OR THAT OF MY DEVIL SWORDS?

DON (BAM)

WHAT A SHAME... YOU CHOSE POORLY.

GU (JERK)

GIIN (CLANNG)

DO (WHAM)

YOUR BEST WEAPONS ARE YOUR VARIETY OF SWORDS AND YOUR SWIFT MOVEMENTS. YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH TO WIELD A GIANT BLADE LIKE THAT. ALL IT DID WAS CURTAIL YOUR ADMIRABLE SPEED.

RIAS GREMORY, I'LL TRUST YOU TO KEEP OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION IN MIND. YOU ALSO MIGHT WANT TO TRAIN YOUR SERVANTS A BIT MORE. THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW FAR REFINEMENT ALONE CAN CARRY YOU.

GAKU (DROP)

...W-WAIT!

YOU CRAVE DESTRUCTION? IT DOESN'T SUIT YOUR INHERENT STRENGTHS. HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED THAT?

WELL, THEN! IF YOU EVER FEEL THE URGE TO BE JUDGED, JUST LET US KNOW. AMEN! ♪

ONE MORE THING. THE "VANISHING DRAGON" WILL SOON AWAKEN.

YOU WILL INEVITABLY MEET IT IN BATTLE, BUT YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF WINNING AS YOU ARE NOW.

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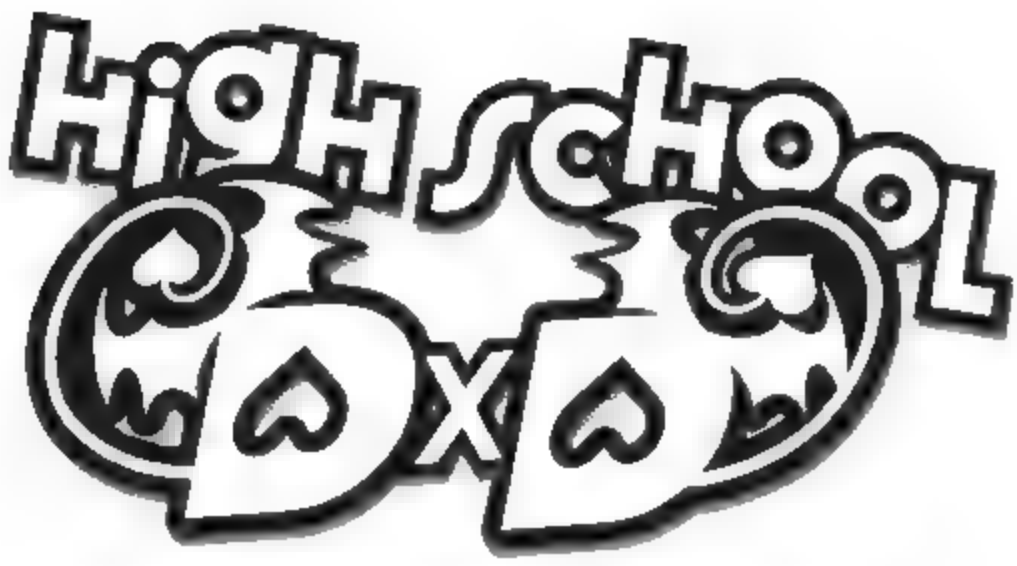
HIGH SCHOOL
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LIFE.28.5: FATE STRIKES AGAIN!

EVEN I HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND SOMETIMES.

YOU'VE LOOKED TROUBLED OF LATE, ISSEI.

YEAH, BUT WORRYING ABOUT THAT IS NOTHING NEW.

HMPH!

OH, LEMME GUESS. YOU'RE WONDERING WHICH YOU SHOULD GROPE TODAY—RIAS-SENPAI'S BOOBS OR HIMEJIMA-SENPAI'S BOOBS?

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ***SOFTNESS***, AKENO-SAN'S CAN'T BE BEAT...

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, THE PRESI-DENT'S WIN IN A CONTEST OF ***SIZE*** AND FULLNESS.

PURIN (JIGGLE)

I MEAN, THEY'RE BOTH BUSTY AS HELL. BUT AKENO-SAN'S NIPPLES HAVE THIS ***GREAT BALANCE TO THEM***, AND SHE'S GOT ***MASSIVE AREOLAS***. AN EXQUISITE YAMATO NADESHIKO!

WHEN IT COMES TO A GROPING SESSION, THOUGH, YOU CAN HAVE A LOT MORE FUN WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SHEER VOLUME. THAT SAID, AKENO-SAN'S HAVE THIS DELIGHTFUL SUPPLENESS TO THEM.

HE'S ACHIEVED ENLIGHTENMENT?

—!

MOTO-HAMA... BOOBS ARE MORE PRECIOUS THAN LIFE ON THIS MORTAL PLANE.

THAT'S PRETTY DEEP... IT RES-ONATES WITH ME.

PAAAA (BEAM)

YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THEIR FANS AND SUITORS ARE EVENTUALLY GOING TO KILL YOU?

AZHIA, FUDK ITH ID?

MUUUU (POUT)

MUNI! (SQUISH)

GUI (SHOVE)

OH, WHAT DO I CARE!?

PUI (SNUB)

SOOOO...

::CUUTE!♥

...I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW. HOW YOU GO HOME AFTER SCHOOL WITH RIAS-SENPAI AND ASIA-CHAN, ARM IN ARM. A PRECIOUS FLOWER IN EACH OF YOUR HANDS. I HOPE YOU'RE SOMEHOW SENT AWAY TO A FANTASY WORLD WHERE YOU GET MELTED BY THE FIRST LOWLY SLIME YOU ENCOUNTER.

DAMMIT! ISSEI REALLY IS THE LORD OF THE PERVS! HE'S GOT THE WHOLE OCCULT RESEARCH CLUB CATERING TO HIM! EVEN LITTLE ASIA-CHAN WANTS HIM!

BIKI (SNAP)

BIKI

YEAH, I KNEW THAT WOULD LEAD TO TROUBLE... WHY DO ASIA AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE TO FIGHT OVER ME? PUTS ME IN AN AWKWARD POSITION... THE ROAD TO THE HAREM KING'S THRONE SURE IS LONG AND HARD...

MUUUU

MUUUU (GRRR)

OH YEAH. I INVITED THEM. ASIA, KIRYUU, AND KONEKO-CHAN WANNA COME.

...WHATEVER BECAME OF OUR PLANS TO GO TO KARAOKE AND BOWLING?

BY THE WAY, ISSEI...

GU (CLENCH)

YEAAAH! ASIA-CHAN AND KONEKO TOUJOU-CHAN? THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT!

...NOT SURE ABOUT KIBA YET.

I'M GOING TOO. OR DIDN'T YOU HEAR?

PAKON (SMACK)

DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THAT PERVY FOUR-EYES. HE MAKES GLASSES LOOK BAD.

YOU AND YOUR GLASSES ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR MOTOHAMA, I GUESS.

HMPH. YOU'RE JUST COMING AS ASIA-CHAN'S COMPANION, KIRYUU.

!?

HOH-HOHH! MMM, I SEE.

...YOU THINK MOTOHAMA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HEY NOW! MOTOHAMA'S GLASSES HAVE A SPECIAL ABILITY! HE CAN ANALYZE GIRLS' BODIES AND CALCULATE THEIR MEASUREMENTS! HE'S IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN!

WHAT A HORRIFYING POWER!

BA (WHAP)

NIYA (SMIRK)

FU-FU-FU! WITH MY GLASSES, I CAN SIZE UP ANY GUY'S MANHOOD.

FROM THE MICROS TO THE STALLIONS.

KAAAAA (BLUSH)

WHOOOA! THIS IS SEXUAL HARASS-MENT!

YUP. JUST ENOUGH TO *SATISFY* GREMORY-SENPAI AND ASIA, I'D SAY.

KUI

KUI (WIGGLE)

DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE *JUST ABOUT RIGHT*, I'D SAY. TOO BIG IS NO GOOD, YOU KNOW, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM.

YEAH, I THINK YOU'LL BE JUST FINE... WHEN IT COMES TO HYOUDOU'S, UM, *THAT*...

THAT?

?

ISN'T THAT A RELIEF, ASIA?

WHOO HEE HEE!

RIGHT. WE'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH OUR MAIN PROBLEM, AND THEN WE'LL BE FREE TO RELAX AND HAVE A BIT OF FUN!

I GET TO HANG WITH KIBA-KUN!

GUI (PUSH)

GET AWAY! STOP POLLUTING ASIA'S MIND!

OH, I'LL GET HIM TO COME SOME-HOW.

HMPH!

WELL, WHATEVER. SO EVERYONE'S COMING EXCEPT KIBA-KUN, THEN?

LOOKS LIKE NOTHING TODAY EITHER...

...YUUTO-SENPAI?

I'M SURE WE'LL RUN INTO HIM SOONER OR LATER IF WE KEEP WEARING THESE PRIEST DISGUISES...

UP THERE, HUH!?

I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND HIM.

WHAT IS IT, KIBA?

...OH?

HEY, YOU PRIESTLY PAUPERS! ALLOW ME TO GUIDE YOU TO HEAVEN!

TAN (LEAD)

WELL, WELL, WELL? IF IT ISN'T ISSEI-KUN!? ANOTHER QUEER REUNION FOR THE TWO OF US, I SEE!

FREED!

WELL? HAS YOUR DRAGON POWERED YOU UP ANY?

OR IS IT FINALLY TIME FOR YOU TO DIE?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6!

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

PAGE 20

Tortoiseshell rope bondage: This is a style of Japanese rope bondage (*shibari*), the appearance of which mimics a turtle shell on the front of the body.

PAGE 38

Madokyuu: This is a reference to the manga series *The Prince of Tennis* by Takeshi Konomi. In this series, Gin Ishida, a player for Shitenhouji Middle School who resembles the Buddha, claims that there are 108 levels to his Hadoukyuu (literally "wave motion ball"). Rias changes the kanji used for *Ha* in the name of this move to *Ma*, making it "devil motion ball." Additionally, the number 108 is important to many aspects of Buddhism, which may also account for the Buddhist imagery behind the girls in this panel.

PAGE [illegible]

Shitori Zone: This is another reference to *The Prince of Tennis* series. Kunimitsu Tezuka, the captain of the SeiGaku team around which the series revolves, possesses a rare technique called the Tezuka Zone, which causes any balls hit by the opponent to be sucked into Tezuka's hit zone.

PAGE 38

Souna Shitori vs. Sohna Sitri: The student council president opts to use her Japanese name Souna Shitori in public, instead of her devil name Sohna Sitri.

PAGE 39

Athletic meet: This school sporting event encompasses both the interclub tournament and the matches between homerooms (typically) and individuals.

PAGE 94

The Grigori: The kanji used for the name of this fallen angel organization translates to "Those Who Watch Over the Children of God." In the second book of Enoch, a Judeo-Christian text, the Grigori are a race of giants similar in nature to fallen angels.

PAGE 94

Kokabiel: Kokabiel appears in the book of Enoch, another Judeo-Christian text, as a high-ranking fallen angel whose name means "star of God."

PAGE 154

Yamato nadeshiko: This is a term for the ideal Japanese woman in the most traditional sense.

HIGH SCHOOL DxD ⑤

HIROJI MISHIMA
ICHIEI ISHIBUMI
ZERO MIYAMA

Translation: Caleb D. Cook

Lettering: Tania Biswas

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

HIGHSCHOOL DXD Volume 5
© 2013 HIROJI MISHIMA
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Edited by FUJIMISHOBO.
First published in Japan in 2013 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo, through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo.

Translation © 2015 Hachette Book Group, Inc.

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: May 2015

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-34048-9

App ISBN: 978-0-316-26678-9

LIFE.28: THE HOLY SWORD DESTRUCTION PROJECT!

WE'RE LUCKY THAT HOLY SWORD DIDN'T DO WORSE TO YOU.

MAN. I BLEW OUT THERE...

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?

SORRY ABOUT TEARING OFF YOUR CLOTHES.

IT'S OKAY. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT AT THE TIME?

HOLD ON NOW, YUUTO!

JUST MY TYPICAL URGE TO STRIP GIRLS NAKED. NOT LIKE I CAN TELL HER THAT, THOUGH!

YOU'RE A "KNIGHT" SERVING THE HOUSE OF GREMORY. YOU'LL BE MAKING SERIOUS TROUBLE FOR ME IF YOU GO "STRAY"!

GU (GRAB)

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO HONOR THEIR GRUDGE AND FIGHT ON...

IT'S THANKS TO MY COMRADES THAT I WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PLACE.

YUUTO... WHY...?

WELL, WHY'D YOU CALL ME HERE?

...I WANT TO KNOW TOO. WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU PLANNING?

...YOU WERE ACTING ODDLY, SO I DECIDED TO FOLLOW YOU.

I DID ASK SAJI TO COME, BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE, KONEKO-CHAN...?

YOU SEE...

OW, OW! FINE, I'LL TELL YOU!

GUI (YANK)

BAN (SMACK)

BAN

BUT WHY ME? ISN'T THIS A GREMORY PROBLEM!? I SERVE SITRI! IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

NO FREAKING WAY! I'M OUTTA HERE!!

GYU (PULL)

DA (DASH)

YOU GUYS HAVE RIAS-SENPAI, WHO MANAGES TO BE STRICT YET KIND! BUT OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT IS STRICT FROM HEAD TO TOE!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! WHY WOULD I HELP YOU? THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOULD KILL ME! UUUUUUU!

DON'T BE LIKE THAT. I THOUGHT OF ALL THE DEVILS I KNOW WHO MIGHT HELP OUT, AND YOU WERE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST.

WHA—!?

...I'LL HELP TOO. IF IT'S FOR YUUTO-SENPAI.

HEY, ARE YOU SERIOUS?

BUT I NEED YOU TO KEEP THIS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND AKENO-SAN. I DON'T WANT ASIA GETTING INVOLVED EITHER.

...THE PRESIDENT DEFINITELY WOULDN'T APPROVE.

BUT THINGS MIGHT TURN SOUR OVER THIS DEAL. IF THAT HAPPENS, I'M GONNA HAVE TO PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE.

BASICALLY, OUR INTERESTS ARE ALIGNED WITH THEIRS. ALL WE NEED IS TO GET THEM TO LISTEN TO OUR SIDE OF IT...

I WANNA RUN AWAY NOW! THE COUNCIL PREZ IS GONNA KILL ME! RIGHT AFTER TORTURING ME!!

GASHI (GRAB)

OH YEAH? I THINK THAT POINT IS NOW. NICE KNOWING YA...

SO YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO BACK OUT AT THAT POINT, KONEKO-CHAN. YOU TOO, SAJI. IF IT STARTS LOOKING HAIRY, JUST RUN.

EMPTY TALK, ALL OF IT. I'M DEAD... I AM GOING TO DIE...

BUT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH THEM. IN THAT CASE, WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.

I WON'T RUN AWAY. WE'RE DOING THIS TO HELP OUR FRIEND.

WON'T ANYONE SHOW SOME COMPASSION FOR US PITIFUL ENVOYS OF HEAVEN?

ALMS FOR THESE LITTLE LOST LAMBS? ALMS FOR THE POOR?

キャッチセールス

禁止

NO PANHANDLING ALLOWED

CURSING THEM WON'T HELP, XENOVIA.

SO THIS IS THE REALITY OF JAPAN AND ITS "BOOMING ECONOMY." THIS IS WHY I CAN'T STAND FAITHLESS NATIONS.

WHAT A SORRY SIGHT.

HMPH. YOU REALIZE YOU ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE BY BUYING THAT WEIRD SHAM OF AN ICON.

OHHH, EVEN A SINGLE LOAF OF BREAD IS BEYOND OUR MEANS!

WITH OUR FUNDS DEPLETED, WE CAN'T EVEN EAT WITHOUT RELYING ON THE KINDNESS OF THESE HERETICS.

...PROBABLY PETER-SAMA ...?

FINE. SO WHO IS IT?

WHAT!? SURE IT DOES! I WOULD KNOW!

ABSURD. IT LOOKS NOTHING LIKE SAINT PETER.

WE'RE HOLDING AN EXHIBITION! EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT BUYING, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO LOOK! ♥

PAINTINGS OF HOLY FIGURES EXHIBITION

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? A TRULY HOLY FIGURE IS DEPICTED IN THIS PAINTING! THAT'S WHAT THE SHOPKEEPER TOLD ME ANYWAY!

GYU (CLUTCH)

WHAT!? YOU CATHOLICS ARE THE ODD ONES, WITH YOUR HACKNEYED CUSTOMS AND RITUALS!

IT'S THINGS LIKE THIS THAT SHOW WHAT DIFFERENT VALUES YOU PROTESTANTS AND WE CATHOLICS HAVE. YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR SAINTS!

HAAAAA (SIIIGH)

GAH. WHY DID I HAVE TO GET HER AS A PARTNER...? OH LORD, IS THIS TOO A TRIAL FOR ME?

YOU HEARD ME, HERETIC!

GUUUUU (GRRROWL)

WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU HERETIC?

...YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW ABOUT WE THREATEN SOME OF THESE HERETICS AND TAKE THEIR MONEY? THEY'RE ENEMIES OF THE LORD BY NATURE, SO SURELY WE'D BE FORGIVEN.

GUUUUUUU

GUUUUUU

...FIRST, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON FILLING OUR STOMACHS. OTHERWISE, WE'LL BE IN NO CONDITION TO STEAL BACK ANY EXCALIBUR SWORDS.

SU (SWF)

OR WE COULD JUST STEAL THEIR OFFER-ATORY BOXES?

SHALL WE ATTACK A TEMPLE, THEN?

GREAT IDEA! WE COULD SKEWER FRUIT WITH OUR EXCALIBURS AND EARN ALL THE TRAVEL MONEY WE NEED!

WE COULD ALWAYS BECOME ***STREET PER-FORMERS*** USING OUR SWORDS.

SAKU (SHAKU)

POI (TOSS)

OVER 50 METERS!

大ウケ OKAY!

THAT WOULD BE STRAYING FROM OUR PATH OF RIGH-TEOUS-NESS...

...NO. BAD IDEA.

EXCEPT WE DON'T HAVE ANY FRUIT...

WELL! THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT. WE'VE GOT TO SLICE UP THIS ICON.

CHA (CHAK)

NO! I WON'T LET YOU!

THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO KILL THE SWINDLER WHO SOLD YOU THIS JUNK AND TAKE OUR TRAVELING MONEY BACK!

DON'T YOU DARE CALL PAUL-SAMA A PIECE OF JUNK, YOU HERETIC!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS PETER, YOU HERETIC!

GYAAAA (KICKED)

GYAAAA

GYAAAA

WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY DOING?

THEY AREN'T EXACTLY KEEPING A LOW PROFILE, ARE THEY ...?

—THERE THEY ARE.

GUUUUU

H-HEY, YOU TWO.

W-WE'RE ABOUT TO GO GET LUNCH. WANNA JOIN US?

IT SURE IS! THESE FLAVORS REALLY TAKE ME BACK!

WOW! JAPANESE FOOD IS TASTY!

Benny's

ANYTHING TO HELP US STICK TO THE PLAN.

CAN WE REALLY SELL OUR SOULS TO THESE DEVILS ...?

THEY WERE SO HESITANT AT FIRST.

SO...WHY HAVE YOU COME TO US?

THE FUN REALLY STARTS WITH DESSERT!!

PHEW...

YOU GUYS CAME TO STEAL BACK THE PIECES OF EXCALIBUR, RIGHT?

YES. I JUST EXPLAINED THAT THE OTHER DAY.

LET ME GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, THEN...

WE WANT TO HELP YOU DESTROY THOSE SWORDS.

...I SEE. I GUESS WE COULD LEAVE ONE OF THEM TO YOU. ASSUMING YOU CAN ACTUALLY DESTROY IT.

HOW-EVER—

WHAT!?

HOLD ON, XENOVIA. IS THIS REALLY OKAY? HE MIGHT BE ISSEI-KUN, BUT HE'S ALSO A DEVIL!

WE DON'T WANT WORD GETTING OUT THAT WE'VE BEEN TEAMING UP WITH DEVILS.

—I'LL ASK THAT YOU NOT REVEAL YOUR IDENTITIES IN THE PROCESS.

AND IF OUR OWN SWORDS ARE STOLEN, WE HAVE TO DESTROY THEM OURSELVES.

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE HAVE TO DESTROY THE THREE BLADES AND ESCAPE BACK HOME.

I KNOW THAT, BUT...!

IN ALL HONESTY, THIS MISSION WAS NEVER GOING TO BE EASY FOR JUST THE TWO OF US.

YES, WE BOTH KNEW THAT BEFORE COMING HERE. SELF-SACRIFICE IS A NOBLE GOAL FOR ANY TRUE BELIEVER.

EVEN WITH OUR *TRUMP*, THE CHANCE OF GETTING BACK SAFELY IS ONLY 30%...ABOUT THE SAME AS THE CHANCE OF US SACRIFICING OURSELVES.

BANNER: GRILLED BURGERS

OH, YOU! I SUSPECTED AS MUCH EARLIER, BUT YOU'VE GOT A WEIRD WAY OF SHOWING YOUR FAITH!

I'VE CHANGED MY MIND, THOUGH. MY FAITH IS A FLEXIBLE THING, YOU SEE. THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO AIM FOR THE BEST OUTCOME.

...NO, THAT MAKES SENSE, BUT...

—AM I WRONG?

SHOULD WE SURVIVE, WE CAN CONTINUE FIGHTING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

I WON'T DENY THAT. BUT FROM NOW ON, I'M PUTTING MY FAITH IN US COMPLETING THIS MISSION AND RETURNING HOME IN ONE PIECE.

—I'D PREFER TO CALL UPON THE *POWER OF THE DRAGON.*

BUT RATHER THAN BORROWING THE POWER OF DEVILS—

I-I'M NOT GONNA SAY WE SHOULDN'T DRAW ON THE DRAGON'S POWER, BUT...THAT'S JUST SEMANTICS! JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, YOUR FAITH IS REALLY WEIRD!

ARE THEY PLAYING WITH A FULL DECK?

HERE THEY GO AGAIN...

IF THE DRAGON'S POWER IS AS LEGENDARY AS THEY SAY, IT CAN EVEN GROW TO BE ON PAR WITH THAT OF THE DEVIL KING HIMSELF, NO? I CAN'T HELP BUT REGARD OUR ENCOUNTER AS MORE GUIDANCE FROM THE LORD.

MUUUUU (IRK)

...YEAH, I GUESS.

I'M FINE WITH WEIRD. AND IRINA, ISN'T HE YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND? WHY NOT HAVE FAITH IN HIM?

PI (BEEP)

NOW CALLING

Yuuto Kib

NOW MIND IF I CALL UP MY PARTNER?

PAKA (FLIP)

ALL RIGHT, THEN. I'LL LEND YOU THE POWER OF MY DRAGON, AND WE'VE GOT A DEAL.

TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, I REALLY REGRET THAT I WOULD HAVE TO COME CRAWLING TO A COUPLE OF HOLY SWORD USERS AND ASK FOR HELP.

...I SEE.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF THOSE EFFORTS THAT XENOVIA AND MYSELF AMONG OTHERS MANAGED TO ACHIEVE COMPATIBILITY WITH THE SWORDS.

BUT THANKS TO THE WORK PERFORMED BACK THEN, RESEARCH ON HOLY SWORD USERS HAS PROGRESSED BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

WE GET YOUR GRUDGE AGAINST THE "HOLY SWORD PROJECT" ...

YOU'VE GOT QUITE A WAY WITH WORDS.

YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FORGIVE THE SLAUGHTER OF ALL THOSE TEST SUBJECTS?

THE FALLEN ANGELS? WHAT'S THIS GUY'S NAME?

THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE WAS LABELED A HERETIC AND EXCOM-MUNICATED. HE'S NOW WORKING WITH THE FALLEN ANGELS.

IT IS REGARDED BY THE CHURCH AS A REGRET-TABLE CRIME.

...SO IF WE GO AFTER THE FALLEN ANGELS, I'M SURE TO RUN INTO HIM.

YOU KNOW, THE OTHER DAY I WAS ATTACKED BY A HOLY SWORD WIELDER.

VALPER GALILEI.

A MAN KNOWN AS "THE ARCH-BISHOP OF SLAUGH-TER."

BUT HE CROSSED ONE TOO MANY LINES WHEN HE ENDED UP LASHING OUT AGAINST HIS OWN COMRADES.

HE'S A GENIUS WHO BECAME AN EXORCIST FOR THE VATICAN AT AGE THIRTEEN. HE'S MADE QUITE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AND HAS AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF SLAYING DEVILS AND DEMON BEASTS.

YOU MEAN THAT SHITTY PRIEST!?

IT WAS FREED SELLZEN. EVER HEARD OF HIM?

FROM THE VERY START, FREED NEVER HAD A DROP OF FAITH. ONLY ***A SENSE OF HOSTILITY AGAINST AND A DESIRE TO KILL WHAT HE REGARDS AS MONSTERS.***

ALSO, HE'S ***UNNATURALLY ADEPT AT FIGHTING.*** IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE'S BROUGHT IN FOR A TRIAL.

WELL, THAT'S FINE. LET'S JUST MOVE AHEAD WITH OUR PLAN TO DESTROY THE PIECES OF EXCALIBUR.

I SEE. SO FREED IS MOVING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS, USING THE HOLY SWORD HE STOLE...

SO HE'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU GUYS TO HANDLE? I KNOW THE FEELING...

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD. WE'LL REPAY THE KINDNESS SOONER OR LATER, ISSEI HYOUDOU OF THE RED DRAGON EMPEROR.

THANKS FOR LUNCH, ISSEI-KUN! YOU MIGHT BE A DEVIL, BUT I'M SURE THE LORD WILL FORGIVE OUR BEING TREATED BY YOU!

IF ANYTHING COMES UP, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND DO THIS, ISSEI-KUN? THERE'LL BE REAL TROUBLE IF WE MESS UP.

AND IF I WERE TO DO SOMETHING RASH ON MY OWN, THAT WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT. I'M SURE YOU HAD THAT IN MIND TOO.

SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD HELP YOU OUT THIS TIME.

WELL, YOU'RE MY FRIEND TO START. PLUS, YOU'VE SAVED MY ASS A FEW TIMES.

...YUUTO-SENPAI.

ME GOING AHEAD AND STRIKING A DEAL WITH THOSE TWO MIGHT ALSO MAKE TROUBLE FOR HER, BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING YOU GO "STRAY."

OF COURSE. SHE'D BE NONE TOO HAPPY IF YOU WENT ON A RAMPAGE.

GYU (CLUTCH)

IF YOU WENT AWAY... I'D BE LONELY.

...I'LL HELP.

...SO PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US.

BUT THIS ISN'T OVER UNTIL THOSE HOLY BLADES ARE DESTROYED.

OKAY. I'LL LET YOU GUYS HAVE YOUR WAY THIS TIME. AND THANKS TO YOU, ISSEI-KUN, WE NOW KNOW OUR TRUE ENEMY.

HA-HA-HA. WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IF I MEAN THAT MUCH TO YOU, THEN I GUESS I CAN'T VERY WELL RUN OFF.

NICE! NOW WE'RE OFFICIALLY THE EXCALIBUR DESTRUCTION SQUAD!

POKAAAN (STUNNED)

ポカーン

...UM, DO I COUNT TOO?

...I GUESS I SHOULD TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MY PAST.

SORRY FOR BEING OUT OF THE LOOP, BUT JUST WHAT DO HOLY SWORDS HAVE TO DO WITH KIBA?

YOU CALLED ME OUT HERE, SO DON'T IGNORE MEEE!

AT A CERTAIN FACILITY, THEY EXPERI-MENTED IN ORDER TO PRODUCE INDIVIDUALS CAPABLE OF WIELDING HOLY SWORDS.

BEHIND THE SCENES, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ONCE CONDUCTED AN OPERATION KNOWN AS THE "HOLY SWORD PROJECT."

THE TEST SUBJECTS WERE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN POSSESSION OF SACRED GEARS, AS WELL AS UNUSUAL TALENT FOR SWORDPLAY.

BUT IN THE END...

...WE WERE MARKED FOR "DISPOSAL."

BELIEVING WE MIGHT TRULY ACHIEVE GREAT-NESS, WE ENDURED THE CRUEL TRAINING AND EX-PERIMEN-TATION!

PAINFUL, INHUMAN EXPER-IMENTS WERE PER-FORMED ON US, DAY AFTER DAY.

SIMPLY BECAUSE WE COULDN'T MANAGE TO SYNERGIZE WITH THE HOLY SWORDS.

...THEY ALL DIED. ALL KILLED BY A SO-CALLED AGENT OF GOD...

...WHEN I MET THE PRESIDENT.

AFTER WATCHING MY COMRADES PERISH AND MANAGING TO ESCAPE, I WAS ABOUT TO DRAW MY LAST BREATH...

AND I THOUGHT ASIA'S STORY WAS A SAD ONE. KIBA'S BEEN CARRYING THE WEIGHT OF HIS UNBELIEV-ABLE PAST TOO...

I WANT TO EASE THEIR REGRETS. I NEED TO MAKE THEIR DEATHS MEAN SOMETHING.

I'M LIVING ON FOR ALL OF THEM, SO I HAVE TO PROVE THAT I'M STRONGER THAN ANY HOLY SWORD.

KIBA! THAT'S SO AWFUL! DAMMIT. HOW COULD A KIND GOD ALLOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT? I TOTALLY FEEL WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM! YOU HAVE EVERY REASON TO HATE THOSE BASTARDS AND THEIR DUMB HOLY SWORDS! WHAT A SAD STORY!

—WAH!?

BA (WHAP)

UUU ...

GUSHI

GUSHI (RUB)

HM?

ALL RIGHT! THIS IS A GOOD TIME! IF WE'RE GONNA BE COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER, YOU GUYS SHOULD ALSO KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT ME!

UWAAH...

GUSU (SNIFFLE)

くすっ

I USED TO HATE YOU AND YOUR PRETTY BOY WAYS, BUT THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING! YOU CAN COUNT ON MY HELP!

MY DREAM —!

BISHI (JAB)

...IS TO KNOCK UP STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT SONNA SO WE CAN GET MARRIED!

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY.

WHAT'LL IT BE TODAY? RIGHT? OR THE LEFT?

BRO!

BA (LEAP)

SAJI, LISTEN! MY DREAM'S TO SUCK ON THE PRESIDENT'S BOOBS!

SAJI. I'VE TOUCHED THEM. ...I'VE EVEN FONDLED THEM.

HYOUDOU! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? GETTING TO TOUCH THE BOOBS OF A HIGH-CLASS DEVIL— YOUR MISTRESS'S, NO LESS—IS NO SMALL FEAT.

NO WAY!! IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE!? YOU'RE PULLING MY LEG!!

IT'S NO LIE. YOUR MISTRESS'S BOOBS MAY BE A LOFTY GOAL... BUT THEY'RE NOT OUT OF REACH.

KUWA (ROAR)

SAJI. ALONE, WE MAY JUST BE A COUPLE OF SAD PAWNS, BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IF WE TEAM UP. LET'S FIGHT TOGETH-ER!

SU (SWF)

NO SHIT! WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO SUCK?

BUT... TO SUCK THEM? TO SUCK ON THE PRESIDENT'S BOOBS... THE NIPPLES, RIGHT? IT'S THE NIPPLES YOU'D BE SUCKING, YEAH?

WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER! AS A TEAM, EVEN A SHOTGUN WEDDING DREAM CAN BE MADE REALITY!

GASHI (GRAB)

...YUP. THEY ARE THE WORST.

...AH HA HA.